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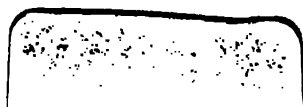
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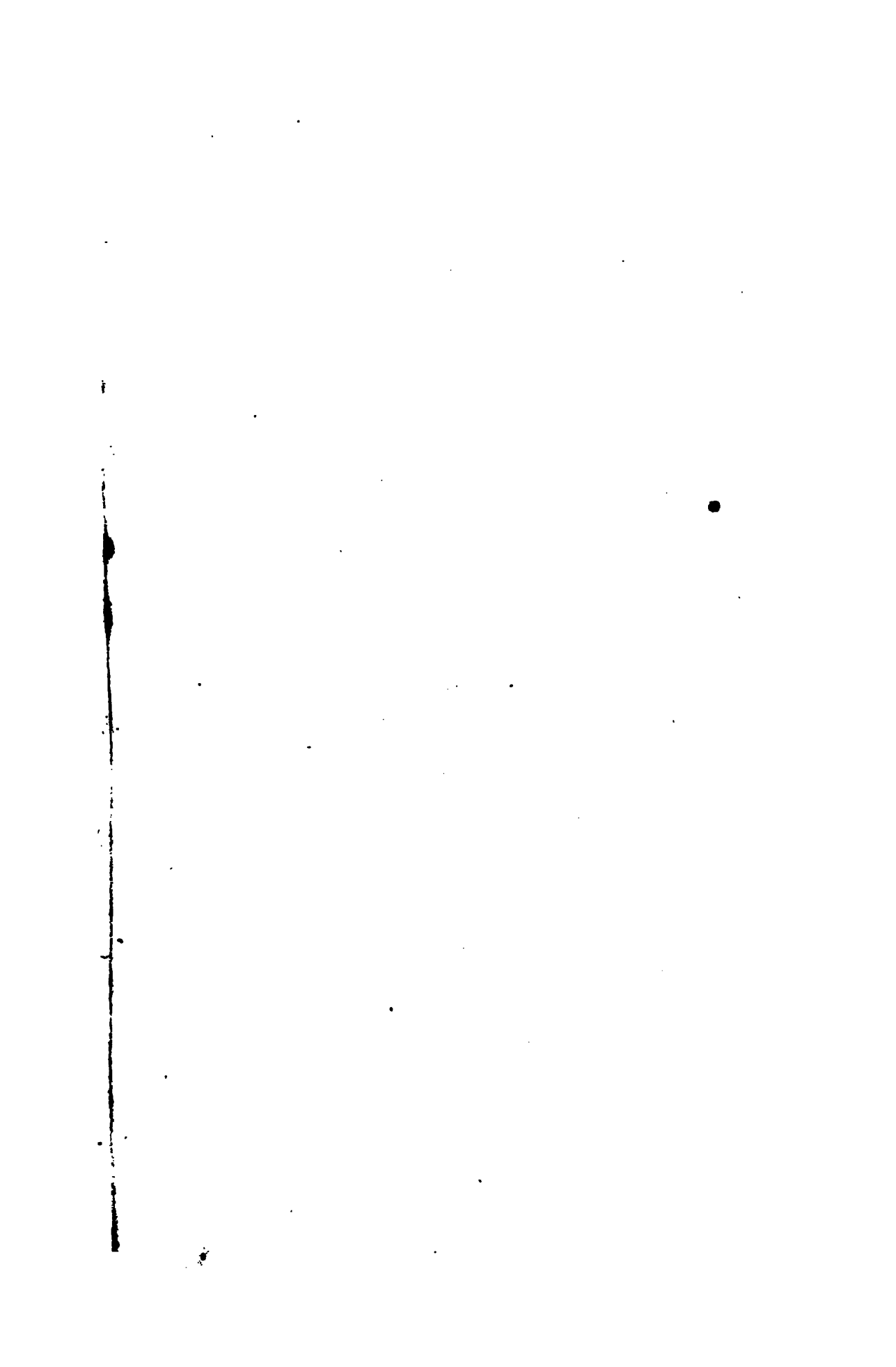
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THE
MONTHLY
GAZETTE OF HEALTH;
OR
MEDICAL, DIETETIC, ANTI-EMPIRICAL,
AND
General Philosophical Journal.

BY
RICHARD REECE, M.D.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AUTHOR OF THE "DICTIONARY OF POPULAR MEDICINE," "MEDICAL GUIDE," "CHEMICAL GUIDE," CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE OF PARIS,
&c. &c. &c.

Aided by Several Eminent Physicians in America, the East India, and the Continent of Europe.

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PREFACE

TO

THE SEVENTH VOLUME.

ON concluding the Fifth and Sixth Volumes of this Work, the Editors had much pleasure in being able to assert, that the prejudice which almost generally prevailed among the members of the medical profession, against their labours to acquaint the mass of mankind with the real state of medicine in this country, and the artifices and ignorance of regular and irregular quacks, was rapidly declining. They have now the satisfaction to state, that the opposition they experienced from the most scientific members has terminated into approbation; and that, at the present time, the Work is only opposed by those enemies to the progress of science, whose success in the *trade* of medicine entirely depends on the ignorance and credulity of the public. For the gratifying support with which they are now honoured from the most enlightened members of their profession, and the no less gratifying patronage of the public in general, the Editors, being at a loss for terms to convey their sense of gratitude, beg they will judge of it by their future labours to render the Work, to the utmost extent of their power, worthy of their countenance.

On a revision of the present Volume, the Editors flatter themselves it will be found to contain more valuable practical information, respecting the means of curing or alleviating diseases, than any other periodical Work. The Biographical Sketches of members who continue to exercise the healing art, either for the benefit of themselves, or their patients, and of those who have run their worldly career, they hope, will prove very useful to young practitioners, by directing them in the road which leads to honourable fame, and which, on the close of life, will prove a source of satisfaction, far greater than an accumulation of wealth from the pockets of misery and distress.—The accounts—of the *Diosma Crenata* (Buchu Leaves), a most valuable remedy in cases of irritative diseases of the bladder, urethra, and rectum, and for quieting the nervous system, and improving the general health of debilitated, gouty, or nervous subjects—of the effects of Iodine in scrofulous and wenny

tumours, and retention of the menses—of a New Plan of conveying Poisons from the Stomach, by Mr. Jukes—of a New Instrument for inspecting the internal surface of the Rectum and Vagina—of a Mode of Treating Contractions, &c. of Joints, and Curvature and Distortion of the Spine, which has been for some time successfully adopted by Mr. Summers—of Galvanism, and Heated Air, by Mr. La Beaume—of the Nitro-Muriatic Bath, by Mr. Coyne—of the beneficial effects of the Oxymel of Colchicum Seeds in Asthma and Winter Coughs—the Purgative Properties of the Croton Oil—the good and bad effects of the Seeds in Gout, modified by Constitution—the Chinese operation of Zin-King, by Mr. Churchill, &c.—cannot fail to prove interesting to those readers who are in search of useful facts.

The publications—on the injudicious or continued use of Mercury on the organs of hearing, by Mr. Wright—the New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia—the Pharmaceutical Guide—a Treatise on Ring-worm, by Mr. Plumbe—the Domestic Herbal, by Mr. Waller—On the Natural History of the Atmosphere, by Dr. Robertson—the Influence of Habits and Manners on the Health of Females, by Dr. Palin—on the Management of the Nursery, by Mr. Thompson—and on the Resilient Power of the Lungs, by Dr. Carson, noticed in the present Volume, are valuable additions to the libraries of the practitioner, and those readers who devote part of their time in scientific pursuits; whilst the exposure of the nefarious practices of Quacks of every description, cannot fail to excite disgust in the minds of those who properly estimate human happiness and life, and shame in those who have allowed their names to appear in support of the infamous traffic.

The Editors, having neglected to add an Index to their Sixth Volume, intend to give a copious one to their Ninth Volume, which will include that and the five preceding volumes.

In compliance with the urgent request of several eminent practitioners, the Editors have reprinted all the back Numbers, (the fifth time,) and have agreed to supply new Subscribers with a Volume or more, at the rate of ninepence each number.*

The articles on Premature Interment—Purgative Medicines—the action of Rouse *versus* D'Oyle, &c., which have not been concluded, in consequence of a press of more interesting matter, the Editors will complete in their next Number; and in future, the conclusion of articles which are to be continued, they will not defer beyond the following Number.

* At the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.

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VOL. VII.

MEDICAL OBITUARY.

WITHIN the last two months, four members of the profession, who have been long actively engaged in endeavouring to cure the maladies, or to alleviate the sufferings, of poor humanity, and in promoting medical science, have discharged their debts to nature; namely, Dr. Bancroft, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Chevalier, and Mr. John Ring. The mortality among the surgeons and apothecaries, both in London and the country, has been so great, that many hypochondriacs are afraid the rot is got among the medical profession. If three-fourths of the members were to fall a sacrifice to an epidemic, fortunately for the country, there would be more left than real invalids would require.

The late DR. BANCROFT.—This scientific physician died at Margate, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. He commenced his medical career in the West Indies, as physician in the army. Of the useful works he published, we may notice the following, as highly creditable to him,—An Essay on the Natural History of Guiana, in South America, experimental Researches concerning the Philosophy of Permanent Colours, and the best Methods of producing them for Dying and Calico Printing; and an Essay on Yellow Fever. A novel, entitled The History of Charles Wentworth, in three volumes, which he published in the year 1794, shews, that he possessed, in an high degree, that peculiar exercise of the imagination, for which nearly all the physicians of France, and but too many of this country, possess, termed "*chimerical invention*."

The doctor entered warmly into the late dispute, respecting the military inquiry, and published an animated letter to the commissioners, on the fifth report, which he, and some of his colleagues, supposed to be a refutation of the statements which had been published by Drs. Mac Gregor and Jackson.

The late Mr. WILSON was a native of Ayrshire, in Scotland. He commenced the study of anatomy and surgery, under the late Mr. Cruikshanks, who, after being librarian and assistant to the late Dr. Hunter and Dr. Baillie, became lecturer. On the death of Mr. Cruikshanks, Mr. Wilson succeeded to his appointment; soon after which, he became sole teacher and proprietor of the theatre, for which he was much indebted to the liberality of Dr. Baillie. He continued to give lectures till the year 1812, when he disposed of his interest, in this once celebrated school, to Mr. Charles Bell, who continues the principal teacher, and, we believe, proprietor. Mr. Wilson was considered, by his brethren, so able an anatomist and physiologist, that he was, with the approbation of every member, appointed Professor of Anatomy to the Royal College of Surgeons of London. He devoted so much time to anatomical

preparations, &c. and to the instruction of his pupils, as to neglect his practice as a surgeon. He was a man of too generous and liberal a mind, to submit to the little mean arts, or to comply with the caprices of patients, which some have found necessary to ensure a practice in this metropolis worth attention. Many practitioners, whom Mr. Wilson taught, and whom he had assisted in early life, observes Mr. Bell, knew better than he did by what means fortune is to be attained. The collection of anatomical preparations which he made, evinces that although his discoveries were neither numerous nor important, they extended to the demonstration of every department of anatomy. He had, for some time, complained of a pain in a particular spot of his head, the frequent return of which he had lately attributed to a severe shock he had received on the breaking down of his carriage, when he was in it.

On the morning of the day of his departure, he complained of being unwell. He felt his hands unsteady. After taking his breakfast, he sat down to write a letter to a patient; when, finding his indisposition to increase, he sent for his son, observing, that he felt exceedingly unwell, but that he wished it not to be communicated to Mrs. Wilson, or his daughter. His son, Dr. Wilson, finding him in an alarming state, dispatched a servant to Dr. Baillie, to request his immediate attendance. In the mean time, blood was abstracted by cupping, and from a vein, under the idea of approaching apoplexy. On Dr. Baillie's arrival, he was scarcely capable of speaking. He laid his hand over the region of the heart, as the seat of his uneasiness, with a countenance strongly expressive of the conviction of his mind, that it would soon terminate his existence. On the propriety of the practice which had been adopted previously to the arrival of Dr. Baillie, we do not find that any observation was made. Dr. Baillie wrote a prescription, and a blister was applied to the *nape* of the neck, and mustard poultices to the feet. The vital powers continued rapidly to decline; so that, in the course of a few hours, he took his final leave of the numerous physicians, who had voluntarily assembled, in the hope of devising some plan of treatment, to prolong so valuable a life. He arranged his worldly affairs, and met his fate with the cool fortitude of a practical christian.

Mr. Wilson, having insured his life at different offices, it was deemed proper, by his medical attendants, that the cause of his death should be ascertained, by opening the body. This was done by Mr. Charles Bell, in the presence of many of his pupils, who made the following report:—"The heart and blood-vessels were found *unusually empty*, and a serous effusion had taken place on *all the surfaces* of the brain; with the exception of some ossifications of the valves of the heart, all the viscera appeared natural."

It is a very common practice in a case of sudden attack of disease similar to the above, to have recourse to bleeding, under the idea of its arising from an overloaded state of the blood-vessels of the brain or lungs. The effusion of serum "*over all the surfaces* of the brain," as stated by Mr. Bell, was not in such quantity as to occasion death; and as the *dura mater*, *pia mater*, and brain, were in a natural state,

it may have been the effect of bleeding. The liver, to the great disappointment of some practitioners, who attributed his indisposition to a morbid condition of that organ, was found perfectly healthy. We think that the state in which the heart and blood-vessels were found, by no means proved his indisposition to have arisen from plethora, either general or local. He applied his hand over his heart, as much as to say, here is the seat of my malady; and in this organ ossifications were found, but not to such an extent as to account for his death. Dr. Baillie, and his other medical attendants, will excuse our asking them, if the loss of blood by "*cupping and bleeding*," (as stated in Mr. Bell's Report) might not, in a case of irregular action, or spasmodic affection of the heart, arising from "*ossifications of the valves*," prove fatal to an elderly man, and one who had been for some time an invalid?

The late MR. CHEVALIER.—This gentleman was much esteemed by the leading members of the profession, for his scientific attainments, and his fund of practical knowledge. He was one of the Court of Examiners of the College of Surgeons of London, and had held the appointment of Surgeon to a public Dispensary, the duties of which he discharged with great ability and humanity. Notwithstanding his practice was extensive in the circles which can afford, and generally do, remunerate surgeons very handsomely for their advice and assistance, he regularly devoted three or four hours of three days in every week, to the poor, or those who could not afford to pay for advice. As a surgeon, he was second to no one in this or any other country. He was a very acute observer of facts, and never disgraced himself by broaching a flight of fancy, or a new theory, for the sake of giving publicity to his name, or by any of the artifices generally practised by men, whose only study is to accumulate wealth.

The late Mr. JOHN RING practised many years, in Swallow-street, as a surgeon-apothecary. Soon after Dr. Jenner promulgated the power of cow-pox, as a security against small-pox, Mr. Ring published a voluminous work on the subject, the object of which was, to confirm the reports of Dr. Jenner, and to advertise himself as a vaccinator. The publications of some failures by the late Drs. Moseley and Rowley, gave such offence to Mr. Ring, that he assailed them, and all who dared to doubt the powers which he had ascribed to cow-pox, with the most virulent abuse. The disgraceful invectives, and personal abuse, in which both parties indulged, at length so disgusted the liberal members of the profession, that their works were soon condemned as waste paper. Vaccination, for a few years, proved an advantageous concern to Mr. Ring, partly in consequence of Dr. Jenner having recommended him to many families of noblemen, to communicate the disease to their children. The practice having greatly fallen off, Mr. Ring has scarcely been known for the last six years as a practitioner. About eight years ago, he compiled a Treatise on Gout, in which he attempted to make an imposing display of his knowledge of the Latin language, and the works of some ancient writers. The work, however, experienced a very limited sale, and consequently failed to answer the object.

Here our praise of him must end; he was an apothecary of the old school, and a surgeon, we suspect, of no school. As to his writings in defence of cow-pox, and his attacks on the characters of those who opposed it, they speak for themselves. All we are disposed to say is, peace to his manes.

POISONING BY ARSENIC.—On the case of the young married woman, who attempted to terminate her existence by taking arsenic, which we have noticed in our last Number, Mr. Humes has communicated to the profession the following remarks:—"Conformably to the promise in my last letter, I now communicate some further circumstances concerning the case of recovery from the poison of arsenic; which cure I still believe to have been accomplished, mainly, by a frequent exhibition of carbonate of magnesia and opium, especially during the commencement of the patient's sufferings.

"There are several cases of recovery from this deleterious drug already before the public, in which great skill, and a judicious variation of treatment with that of the symptoms, are very conspicuous. In some of these instances, it must be observed, after the primary and specific effects on the constitution had been overcome, and began to decline, that a very different class of indications presented themselves to the practitioner's notice, requiring a total change in the management of the patient, and the employment of opposite remedies. Among other examples of this versatility of appearances, and the consequent deviation in the practice, I shall refer your readers to Dr. Roget's paper, published in the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*, Vol. II. and to Mr. Marshall's *Remarks on Arsenic*, quoted in my last communication, both of which I consider to be excellent authorities for the best instructions on similar occasions.

"In this woman's case, the abatement of the specific signs, such as the excessive retchings; sensation of a burning heat in the fauces and other parts subservient to deglutition; fixed and severe pain about the præcordia and upper portion of the abdomen; together with frequent, but not effectual, evacuations from the bowels; were succeeded by a train of very contrary symptoms. The principle of these were chilliness, with cold extremities; nausea, and slight efforts to vomit; a trifling head-ache, a peculiar feeling of smarting and pain at the termination of the rectum; an inclination to evacuate, but not at all of the nature of tenesmus; and some oppression in the chest, with difficulty of breathing.

"The most urgent of these sequelæ were the two last, especially the difficulty of breathing, and this was presently relieved by tincture of henbane, given every three hours, with the common saline mixtures. Each dose of the tincture did not exceed twelve drops, and this was continued for nearly two days, the breathing having by that time been perfectly restored. For the irritation in the rectum, I gave the patient two doses of castor oil; and this medicine, with those already described, constitute the whole that were required in the present case. To ascertain the quantity of arsenic which had been taken, I weighed the remaining portion in the paper,

believing that a certain weight by avoirdupois had been purchased, and that the deficiency would indicate the dose. I also questioned the woman herself, as well as her mother, respecting every particular, so as to elicit the truth, and I found that the powder had been conveyed into the glass on the point of a common table knife; that cold water was added, and the whole stirred well with a teaspoon: this dose was then instantly swallowed, and as the patient said, it had no other taste than a 'gritty or sandy sensation among her teeth.'

"Taking every circumstance into consideration," says Mr. Humes, "I am confident that more than eighty grains were mixed in the water. However, from the very ponderous and insoluble nature of the white oxide of arsenic, especially in cold water, it is proper to make a fair allowance for that portion which must subside or adhere to the surface of the glass. I regret that I could not proceed in this part of enquiry, for the mother of the patient was too officious to allow the glass to remain a moment for my inspection: it was well washed out even before she called for my assistance.

"Whether the mode of mixing the arsenic, and the state of the stomach on receiving it, can have any influence on the subsequent action of the poison, seem to be questions of some import, and deserving at all times to be taken into account. In the five cases related by Mr. Marshall, the powder was mixed in that species of food known by the name of yeast-dumplings, in which, to my knowledge, a considerable quantity of the arsenic was introduced; for I received the mere scraping of the dish in which the paste had been kneaded, and of this every atom was loaded with the poison, and too palpable in quantity to require much trouble or nicety in the analysis. The viscid nature of this paste would tend greatly to sheath and envelop the arsenic; and, consequently, when the stomach, in such a case, is excited, and vomiting ensues, there is a probability of much of the powder ejected on every effort made by that organ to release itself.

"I have already described the supper which my patient had eaten just before she took the poison; that this meal was more of solid than liquid or porous nature; and have also mentioned that she was at the time in a high state of intoxication. Hence the stomach may, in some measure, be considered as defended from the deleterious action of the fatal dose; and this with her having once or twice vomited copiously, may have materially assisted in saving this woman from a premature death.

"The dose of arsenic which Dr. Roget's patient took, was, I believe, mixed with bread and butter. But whether the powder was strewed over the surface, or previously mixed with the butter, I cannot at this moment recollect. In either case the whole of the powder must have been effectually swallowed.

"It seems to be a growing evil, the employment of arsenic for effecting suicide and murder; and frequent instances have lately occurred of horses and other animals, having also been destroyed by it. I very lately had occasion to analyze the contents of the stomach of a most valuable horse, which had been poisoned by arsenic; and, with some others of minor consequence, I may add the late murder

perpetrated in the County of Essex, for which the culprit very deservedly suffered death. He had effected his horrid plan by administering the powder in form of pills, some of which were sent to me for analysis. Besides the proof of the quality of the pills which were very palpable, the clumsy form in which they were finished, shewed that no professional gentleman had prepared them, a circumstance that still added to the veracity of the evidence. I was not subpoenaed upon that trial, there being sufficient proofs to convict the man (James Emery), without my aid. The opinion and report I wrote, and sent into my employers, was almost verbatim the same as delivered by one or two of the witnesses; I presume, therefore, that they also had analyzed another portion of the pills, and met with the same result!" On the tests which Mr. Humes has recommended for detecting the presence of arsenic, he observes:—

"Having in all my experiments, relied on the tests which I have so often recommended for the detection of arsenic, particularly the two triple salts of silver; I shall now enter again upon that subject. All the thoughtless assertions respecting difficulties, and of the similarity of arsenite of silver, with the phosphate of the same metal, are fully refuted.

"To those who have not been habituated to such experiments, I would inculcate the propriety and advantage to be derived from observation, by a few examples, and applying the tests to a solution of arsenic made expressly for that purpose. I might say that this is incumbent on all professional men: for if we refer to the numerous trials that have occurred, and where the cause of death was from this poison, (especially one which took place in Cornwall,) we shall find that physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, alone were taken as witnesses. Amongst other cautions which are requisite and should always be observed, let the suspected solution be quite cold, when either of the ammoniacal preparations is applied, and let the experiments be always made by day-light.

"I regret that this woman's case had not fallen into other hands, and that more attention on my part could not be bestowed to render it more complete. I visited not more than three times, and these were not daily, so that the progressive state of the pulse, and many other particulars, are evidently wanting. Should magnesia prove a needful antidote, I certainly would always prefer its *carbonate*. Indeed, on many accounts, calcined magnesia is not so good a medicine; for in the usual progress of preparing it, by submitting the carbonate to a red heat, the magnesia becomes, I may say, too pure: it loses all its water as well as the carbonic acid, and becomes a kind of anhydrate, a dry and harsh substance, divested of all moisture whatever."

We expected to have found in this second communication, some reason assigned by Mr. H. for having employed so simple an article as common magnesia, to counteract the effects of so powerful a poison as that of arsenic. If it does not possess the power of decomposing arsenic so as to render it inert or less virulent, on what principle was it exhibited? The recovery of the patient, if she really took arsenic, is, in our opinion, to be attributed more to the vomiting it

excited, than to the carbonate of magnesia and laudanum. As to the tincture of henbane, in the small dose of ten drops, having succeeded in relieving the difficulty of breathing, appears to us not a little extraordinary; for so weak an anodyne is this tincture, that we have given it to the extent of a quarter of an ounce, without producing any effect whatever.

When a practitioner, who ranks so high in the chemical world as Mr. Humes very deservedly does, publishes a chemical case, as that of treating poison taken into the stomach, we naturally look for something like a rationale of the intended operation of the antidote he administered; and this, we hope, Mr. Humes will condescend to give to the profession.

ACUPUNCTURATION. — Mr. Morss Churchill, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of London, has lately published a description of this operation, which originated with the Japanese and Chinese, and by them termed *Zin-king*. Mr. Churchill expresses his surprise, that a mode of treating painful and formidable diseases, which has been so long held in the highest estimation among Asiatics, and so simple in its application, should have been so long neglected in Europe. He supposes that the hyperbole, in which its efficacy has been related, has induced the sober minds of our Northern soil to treat the representations as the fictions of Eastern imagination, and to reject them without examination, as fables calculated only for amusement. There have not been wanting sensible minds, and men of talent and reputation, to recommend the operation; and the names of Ten-Rhyne, Bidloo, Kœmpfer, and Vicq-d'Azyer, stand conspicuous on the list of those who speak in its favour; but still it appears, that neither of them had given it a trial. Of late years, several practitioners in France have adopted the practice, and their reports confirm the favourable accounts which others have given of it. It was first employed in this country by Mr. Scott, of Westminster, a surgeon of experience and observation, and the successful results in his practice, which Mr. Churchill witnessed, induced the latter gentleman to adopt it; and the uniform success of the operation in his own practice, he observes, "warrants a recommendation of it in almost any terms I could give it."

The method of performing the operation of *Zin-king*, or *Acupuncturation*, is both easy and simple, requiring neither practice to become dexterous, nor adroitness to produce its proper effects. A knowledge of the anatomy of the human body, particularly the courses of large blood-vessels and nerves, is however necessary. Of the operation of *Zin-king*, Mr. Churchill gives the following description:—

"The first step necessary to the performance of this operation is, the selection of a proper apparatus. It is not requisite, however, that our needles be either of gold or silver, as those of the Japanese are, although it is true that the flexibility of these metals prevents the risk of their breaking; but I have not heard of, or seen, any instance of such an accident with the steel needle, which is the material employed in European practice. It may however be left to the discretion of the surgeon, whether he uses the former or not;

it is only of consequence, that the extremity should be finely pointed, and preserved so.

“ Mr. Berlioz uses a steel needle, three inches in length, which has a head given to it of melted sealing wax. This needle is introduced to such a depth as the operator thinks proper, depending on the part in which it is used, as well as the nature of the disease which it is intended to remedy. If it be intended to puncture any of the viscera, such a needle will indeed be wanted; but it will be seen by the practice of the French physicians, that though they have sometimes thought it right to penetrate the visceral cavities to the whole depth of this needle, yet it is but seldom that more than one inch of it has been sunk into the part. I have not, in my own practice, ventured to use needles of greater length than one inch, and one inch and a half; and the instrument which I use is an ingenious adaptation of a common sewing needle to an ivory handle, constructed by Mr. Edward Jukes, Surgeon Accoucheur to the Westminster Medical Institution.

“ Dr. Haime, and, I believe, the French surgeons who practise acupuncture, use this long needle (three inches); and Mr. Demours, who appears to be a man of considerable mechanical genius, has lately invented a new apparatus for this purpose. An exhausting syringe is fitted to the side of a cupping glass, which can be unscrewed and removed after the exhaustion has been effected by a few strokes of the piston, leaving the glass affixed to the part. From the top of the glass proceeds a hollow staff, in which slides (the tube being air tight) a handle, armed with a three-inch needle, which is inserted to any depth the operator chuses.

“ The theory which Mr. Demours gives in defence of this instrument is, that the sensibility of the part is so much lessened by the congestion occasioned by the suction of the pump, that the instrument passes without producing the least pain, whilst at the same time it penetrates deeper and more readily, through the tumefaction occasioned by the turgescence of the sanguineous capillaries and lymphatics. These advantages, he says, being only obtained by the operator's ability of passing the needle, whilst the surface of the body remains in the state of tumefaction, he contends they cannot possibly be derived from the simple process of affixing a common glass by the flame of a taper, as the tumour subsides the instant the glass is removed.

“ I do not think it, however, a matter of any moment, whether a cupping glass be applied or not; it may, certainly, lessen the sensibility of the part, and consequently diminish the pain occasioned by the needle; but this is in general so trifling, that no preparatory steps are required to mitigate it; in fact, it deserves so little the name of pain, that the patient is often unconscious of the needle having penetrated.

“ The Japanese and Chinese drive in the needle by the stroke of a mallet. This instrument, in use amongst the former, is made of ivory, with holes sunk on its surface in the same manner as a lady's thimble, which prevent the hammer from sliding off when the stroke is given. Such a method is however objectionable, as well from the

danger there would be of breaking a needle not possessing flexibility, as from its being more painful to the patient.

“ The method to be employed is the following :

“ The handle of the needle being held between the thumb and fore finger, and its point brought into contact with the skin, it is pressed gently, whilst a rotatory motion is given it by the finger and thumb, which gradually insinuates it into the part, and by continuing this rolling, the needle penetrates to any depth with facility and ease. The operator should now and then stop to ask if the patient be relieved ; and the needle should always be allowed to remain five or six minutes before it is withdrawn. This mode of introducing the needle, neither produces pain (or at least very little) to the patient ; nor is productive of Hæmorrhage, which Dr. Haime says, arises from the fibres being separated, rather than divided by the passing of the needle ; the former of which (the absence of pain) is a point in its favour, which few surgical operations possess.

“ It is but rare that I introduce more than one needle at the same time, as a greater number does not appear to be more efficacious than a single one. I, however, depart from this rule (as will be seen from some of the cases) when the pain becomes fugitive from the effects of the instrument ; which is a most encouraging symptom. In such circumstances, following the disease by introducing the needles where the pain has removed to, has always proved ultimately successful.

“ Where also the disease is seated in such several parts, which, from their anatomical situation are known to receive their nerves from distinct or opposite departments of nervous origin ; or if the disease pervades more organs or muscles than one, which are but little connected as to their nervous relations ; then I regulate the number of needles, accordingly as I suppose the several parts may be more or less connected with each other.”

The Japanese have long employed this operation with success, in cases of colic and tympany ; and in some parts of India it is a popular remedy, not only for these diseases, but also head-ache, lethargy, and inflammation of the eyes. The operator often punctures the chest, back, and abdomen, to relieve pain of those parts, and as a cure for dysentery, hysteric fits, cholera morbus, iliac passion, &c. It is also successfully employed by them in cases of local diseases of the muscular and fibrous structure of the body ; and it is for diseases of this class only, such as rheumatism, &c., for which Mr. Churchill particularly recommends the practice.

To illustrate the success of this Asiatic remedy, Mr. Churchill has given a few cases, in which he has employed it ; and the testimony of Mr. Jukes, a respectable surgeon of Westminster, and of some eminent practitioners of France, who have given it a fair trial. From the cases we select the following :

“ George Mc' Laughlan, about thirty years of age, a bricklayer by employment, came to my house in November last, supporting himself by a stick in one hand, and resting the other against the wall, as he proceeded. The body was bent at nearly right angles with the thighs, and his countenance indicated acute suffering. He had been

attacked, he said, three days before, with darting excruciating pains in the loins and hips; every motion of the body produced an acute spasmodic pain, resembling an electric shock; and the attempt to raise the body to an upright position was attended by such insupportable agony, as obliged him to continue in this state of flexion rather than encounter it by altering his position. There was no more constitutional disturbance than was to be expected from three days and nights of constant pain; the pulse was a little quickened, and the tongue white, but I attributed this derangement to the irritation set up by the pain and loss of rest. I directed him to place himself across a chair for support during the operation, and I immediately introduced a needle of an inch and a half in length into the lumbar mass on the right side of the spine; in two minutes time I observed that he seemed to rest the weight of his body more on his limbs, and in the next instant, without any enquiry being made, he observed, that he felt his limbs stronger from the 'pain having left his hips.' He next plainly indicated that the disease was lessened, by raising his body; from which he only desisted, by being desired to remain at rest, through fear of the needle being broken. The instrument having remained in its place about six minutes, the patient declared he felt no pain, and could, if he were permitted, raise himself upright; it was then withdrawn; the man arose, adjusted his dress, expressed his astonishment and delight at the sudden removal of his disease, and having made the most grateful acknowledgments, left the house with a facility as though he had never been afflicted. The relief was no doubt permanent, as he did not return, which he would most probably have done, had he suffered a relapse."

It is worthy of notice, that in the natives of the East and West Indies, operations on the bowels, and accidents which would prove fatal to an European, go on well without any constitutional sympathy or fever. We have seen a most formidable compound dislocation of the elbow-joint of a negro, terminate more favourably than a simple one, in a native of this country. The wound, after reduction, healed as kindly as an incised one, and the patient had the free use of the joint. Had not a surgeon been present who had witnessed the favourable termination of similar accidents in negroes, the limb would have been amputated. Mr. Churchill has given a drawing of the Zin-King needle, as improved by Mr. Jukes. It is scarcely necessary to observe, that an instrument which is to penetrate muscles, should be employed only by a practitioner well acquainted with anatomy. The thanks of the profession are due to Messrs. Churchill, Scott, and Jukes, for having given publicity to a remedy, which, in many cases of deeply-seated pain, may, no doubt, be employed with great advantage.

INDIGESTION, &c.—We have received a copy of a pamphlet lately published by Messrs. Sherwood and Co., under the title of *Friendly Letters to an English Countess, on the causes, prevention, and treatment of Indigestion and Bilious Complaints, and their consequences on the general health, which, it is said, was written by a late royal physician. The lady to whom the letters were*

addressed, states in the preface, that "having found the instructions they convey, highly beneficial to herself, and a large circle of friends, she has thought proper to authorize their publication for the benefit of those who suffer from indigestion; a disorder, (says she), which, by disturbing the general health, will, sooner or later, produce in some part of the constitution, the most formidable disease to which human nature is liable. The work contains four long letters. In the first, the Doctor takes a moral view of medicine, which he thinks, by diverting the mind of an invalid from a future state, and misleading him with the hope of recovery where there is no prospect of it, is injurious to society.

"It has often," says he, "been a matter of doubt to me, whether medicine has been of more benefit or injury to society. Man, like the rest of creation, has a limited existence, and disease is the means by which these limits are terminated. But man differs from the rest of the creation in having his prospects extended beyond the limits which at present encircle his corporeal frame. He consists of two parts, intimately blended together, but at the same time capable of existing in a separate state. That immaterial part, peculiar to himself, forms the guide, the director, and guardian of the whole. Considering, then, disease, in this view, as the means ordered by Providence for terminating his corporeal existence, and giving a new era to his being in another shape, how far are we warranted in interposing with the will of that Power who has sent it for this purpose, and intends thus, by each attack, to sever us from our attachment to the present state of things, and to render the change easier to us at last? If this be really the intention of Providence, the interference of medicine is both ridiculous on the one hand, and injurious on the other. It is ridiculous, because, if sent by the wise Director of all things, with such an intention, no such efforts on our part can have any influence, it is clear, in counteracting the mandates of his will. It is injurious, by giving a confidence to the unhappy sufferer in a power too weak to render him any service, and withdrawing his hopes from the Bestower of all good, to secondary objects, which can only mislead. Such is my opinion of medicine, in a religious and moral view. This, you will say, is going too far; but in pursuing the subject, I consider it also as equally injurious on the very principle of counteracting disease in the animal frame, without regard to an immaterial principle, or its future prospects. That 'man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward,' is a truth universally felt; and this proceeds equally from the complex nature of his frame and the mode of life he is destined to pursue. But, still, though thus formed and thus situated, his constitution possesses within itself the powers of renovation. The attack of disease is counteracted by the efforts of the system to overcome it; and the interference of medicine is apt, too often, to interrupt the salutary efforts in their course, or prevent them altogether taking place. This is particularly remarked in acute diseases; and it is only in those of a chronic nature that perhaps it is proper that the aid of medicine should at all be had recourse to."

Medicine has been termed God's second cause of health; and he who considers the surprising effects different articles of the three kingdoms of nature manifest on the vital powers, will not doubt for a moment that they were given us by the Creator, to combat the diseases to which, for some wise purpose, he has made us liable. Most of the ailments, we agree with the author, are the consequences of imprudence, particularly indulgence in excessive meals, and vinous or spirituous liquors. He, knowing the frailty of our nature, has kindly given us remedies for the cure or alleviation of disease, although the consequences of indiscretion. Diseases are no doubt intended for our good. By many we learn what to avoid, and are reminded of our mortal condition. To the wise they are indeed instructive lessons.

"The stomach," the Doctor observes, "from its office, and its powers of sympathy, which it possesses with other parts, is more exposed to disease than any other portion of the body; and this disease may consist either in a simple loss of tone of its muscular fibres, an irritability of its nerves, a vitiated state of the digestive fluid, or a fault in its organic structure. All these causes produce each a separate affection; which though the symptoms may be somewhat similar, demand an opposite and peculiar treatment. Of the sympathies of the stomach, the most important is that with the head. Hence affections of the stomach often produce a diseased state of the nervous system; and that lowness and depression which attend stomach complaints can only be referred to this source. The primary state of what are termed nervous disorders, may, therefore, always be ascribed to this organ; and the affection of the nervous system is but a secondary link in the chain. There is no species of disease, local or general, which entails on the unhappy sufferer such misery, and which gives to the mind all the dread of death, without much danger of its taking place. Even religion is here found at times to want its consolation, and the unfortunate victim of his deranged feelings is hurried to extremes which reason cannot command. He flies either to the Circean cup, whose deceitful draught, giving a momentary relief from its exhilarating effect, renders him soon a complete drunkard; or, misled by the false promises of the empiric, he repairs to the patent warehouse, and ruins his constitution by a wanton and excessive abuse of medicine, ill directed for his complaints. His mind wants relief; and, if he avoids Scylla, in attempting this, he is sure to be ensnared by Charybdis."

The doctor then proceeds to notice the progress and consequences of stomach complaints. In the second letter, after enumerating their causes, he gives copious instructions for their cure and prevention, by diet, exercise, &c. His remarks on these subjects, (to invalids, and particularly to those who are subject to indigestion, highly important) are very judicious. On drink, of which invalids are often at a great loss to make a proper choice, the doctor observes, "If restriction be then necessary with respect to solid food, it is still more so in respect to drink; and a *total abstinence* from fermented liquors should be laid down as an indispensable

rule in the treatment of stomach complaints. Water is the beverage which, of all others, will agree best with the organ; and every privation should be submitted to in a disease so troublesome and obstinate as the present, on the removal of which the very enjoyment of life and its blessings depend.

“If stimulus be wanting, it can be supplied by the use of mild aromatics, without the necessity for fermented liquors of any description. The prevalence of stomach complaints in this country has been chiefly since the use of these liquors became general. Even in their purest and most genuine state, they are a stimulus the human body does not require; but now, that the avarice of trade has sophisticated their qualities, and supplied the natural stimulus they impart from the process of preparing them by adulterations of a noxious quality, they may be considered as so many poisons to the human frame, from the use of which the stomach first suffers, after which the mischief is extended to every part of the body. From this catalogue I do not exempt wine; which is liable, in the hands of the wine-merchants, to the most dangerous adulteration of the whole.

“Perhaps in no case does the crime carry its own curse more strongly with it than in errors of diet. The abuse of what Providence has intended, by its moderate use, to prove a blessing and comfort to us, makes us forfeit the healthy condition of that organ on which our very enjoyment of sensual pleasure depends; and man seems the only animal that suffers in this respect, or whose appetites carry him to such criminal lengths. It is no less wisely ordained, in another general view, from the dreadful consequence which often arises from the over-indulgence in the inebriating cup, the midnight conviviality, and all its attendant voluptuousness. Does it not give origin to the most wanton and criminal passions—to brawls and contentions—nay, even to murder itself?”

The third letter embraces the medical treatment of different species of indigestion, which occupies eight pages. He forcibly points out, to gouty and asthmatic subjects, the necessity of attending to the state of the stomach and bowels, and enumerates the articles, simple and compound, which are applicable to each species of the disease. On the use of stimulating or cordial medicines, he makes the following judicious remarks:—

“But in fortifying the stomach, recourse should never be had to exhilarating cordials, and particularly those denominated specifics, from the shelves of the patent warehouses. Their basis is chiefly ardent spirits, rendered still stronger by the addition of aromatics, and other stimulant matters. The use of these compounds, while it gives a momentary relief and alleviation from pain, increases the malady, and merely suspends the hour of torment. The constitution soon gives way under this pernicious practice, and life and comfort are bartered for momentary enjoyment! This is particularly the fate of the female sex. The lowness and depression they feel, drive them to court relief at any expence; accordingly, the cordial is resorted to, and they want fortitude ever

after to give up the practice. In the moments of inebriation, thus brought on by a desire of freedom from pain, advantage is often taken by the other sex. Their morals become corrupted, their minds debased; and those finer feelings, intended by nature to be the guardians of their honour, and the silent monitors of their conduct, become callous to every sensation but the enjoyment of the unhappy practice to which they are addicted. As the wise man applies his conclusion to the heart, so I may apply the same conclusion to the stomach: 'Guard with all care the entrance to *this organ*, for from it are the issues of life and death—of good and evil.'"

In the last letter, the doctor gives his patient permission to publish his letters, although he thinks it is due to his colleagues, at least not to encourage popular medicine. He notices the diseases which he considers to be the consequences of indigestion, and those which may be cured by attending to the digestive organs, and such topical remedies the state or stage of the local disease may indicate; namely, fluor-albus, head-ache, sore mouth, hysteric fits, Saint Vitus's dance, epilepsy, scrofula, diabetes, gravel, gout, incontinence of urine, rickets, worms, &c. He also notices the causes of sterility, and makes some remarks on the critical period of the life of a female, generally termed the "turn of life." The work was evidently written by a gentleman of experience and observation.

GALVANISM.—The indefatigable scientific Mr. La Beaume has published a collection of cases of indigestion, torpidity of the liver, habitual costiveness, and gutta serena, in which he applied the galvanic fluid with complete success. In some of our late and early numbers we have published several cases of indigestion, deficient secretion of bile, and obstinate costiveness, which were cured by galvanism under the care of Mr. La Beaume. The new cases prove that in habitual costiveness or inactivity of the bowels, galvanism is a more valuable remedy, and that its effects are permanent. A correspondent in Edinburgh requests us to give an opinion as to the manner in which we suppose the galvanic fluid to act in affections of the lungs, stomach, &c. We have never entertained any other opinion of the action of this powerful agent, than that it invigorates the nerves which conduct it, and thereby render them better conductors of the nervous fluid from the brain. Epileptic and hysteric fits are probably the efforts of nature to get rid of collection of nervous fluid in the brain, which has taken place in consequence of a diminution of the conducting powers of the nerves, whose office it is to convey it to the viscera of the chest and abdomen, and other parts of the body. Galvanic fluid, by rousing the nerves and improving their conducting power, has therefore succeeded in the cure of these maladies.

Mr. La Beaume has added some cases of Erysipelas, &c. in which his newly-invented apparatus, termed "The Portable Sudatory," has been employed under the direction of eminent practitioners with unexpected success. By means of this machine, the body may be enveloped in atmospheric air, heated to a degree of temperature

which never fails to produce perspiration, which may be regulated by increasing or diminishing the temperature of the air. It is more certain in its effects, and more convenient to use than the warm bath. By occasioning a determination of blood to the surface of the body—producing an evaporating surface—and by equalizing the circulation, it has been employed in cases of internal congestion, and a variety of diseases attended with increased heat and dryness of skin, with wonderful advantage. The importance of this invention must appear obvious to every practitioner who has met with many cases of rheumatism and gout, and witnessed the bad effects on the stomach and general health, of antimonial preparations, ipecacuanha, and opium, administered to excite perspiration; and of their frequent failure in producing the desired effect. In many a case of typhus fever, have these remedies, given to excite perspiration, proved highly injurious, by exciting nausea, and reducing the vital powers. We have met with cases of typhus fever, and irritative fever of infants, in which antimonial wine and ipecacuanha, administered in nauseating doses, proved very injurious. In the sudatory we have a certain remedy for exciting perspiration without disordering the stomach by nauseating medicine. In typhus fever, gout, chronic rheumatism, diabetes, and all cases of local congestion or determinations of blood to any particular part of the body, we have no hesitation in saying, that the Sudatory is a most valuable invention. We transcribe the first case of Mr. La Beaume's list, to enable our readers to form their own opinion of the value of his invention:—

“In the spring of this year, I was sent for in great haste, by an eminent Physician, to employ the Portable Sudatory, in a very urgent and desperate case. When I arrived, I found the patient, who was about thirty years of age, lying in bed, with all his powers in a state of the greatest prostration. His countenance was extremely pale—he was unable to move his head, or open his eyes, without feeling a great degree of sickness and giddiness—he could not articulate his words distinctly, or speak louder than in a whisper—he felt extremely cold, though under a profusion of blankets, with a large stone bottle of hot water at his stomach, and another still larger at his feet. Dr. A — observed, that this was a case of great danger, that the circulation had nearly ceased on the surface, and in the extremities, that the heart was gorged with blood—the pulse was extremely feeble, and that he was rapidly sinking under a congestive form of disease. Without moving the patient from the position in which he lay, and which would have been attended with some difficulty, I ordered the bottles of water to be taken away, and applied the Sudatory under the bed-clothes. In five minutes after the commencement of the operation, the patient observed that he felt a comfortable glow about the feet. In a quarter of an hour, he expressed himself in a louder tone of voice, as being sensible of a general warmth, with the head and chest greatly relieved. The physician, who particularly watched the state of the pulse, remarked that the vigour of the circulation was then restored, and the diffusive stimulus of the Sudatory had also produced a copious perspiration. I continued the application ten minutes longer,

when the patient experienced perfect relief. He was enabled to sit up immediately after, and take some tea for breakfast.

"This single administration of the Sudatory," observes Mr. La Beaume, "was probably the means of saving the patient's life; for I was repeatedly assured by the Physician, who expressed his approbation of the Sudatory in the strongest terms, that he was fully convinced that no other means could have produced such an extraordinary and rapid recovery, and that if the patient had not obtained immediate relief, he must have died of apoplexy in a few hours. On a subsequent visit, the Doctor informed me that he found him restored to a state of perfect health.

OCCULT CANCER. — Mr. Farr, member of the London College of Surgeons, author of a Treatise on Scrofula, late surgeon to the Hospital on the island of Anholt, &c., has published an Essay on Cancer, in which he highly extols the Corsican sea moss (*fucus helminthocorton*), as an internal remedy for the scirrhus, or occult state of this malady. It appears that Mr. Farr has, for many years, paid particular attention to cancer, in its scirrhus or occult, and in its ulcerated or open state; and that, during his residence in England, he has, highly to his credit, taken great pains to acquaint himself with the mode of treatment which is employed by regular and irregular practitioners, and advertising quacks, who have obtained some celebrity for the treatment of the disease, or pretend to possess a superior knowledge of its nature and cure.

Of Mr. Young's plan of treatment, namely, application of pressure to promote absorption of the accumulated mass, he speaks in terms of approbation: but the result, however, he says, is not always favourable; for he has met with a case, in which the tumour increased during its use.

The success of Dr. Mac Donald's treatment, who pretends to cure cancer by a *constitutional* treatment, he observes, has been limited to four cases, in all of which there still remains some portion of tumour, in a state of quiescence. Mr. Farr did not succeed in obtaining from this gentleman any satisfactory information respecting his mode of treatment. "No philanthropy or liberality of mind (says he), could induce him to impart that information which might benefit mankind!! He was like the miser with his hoard, content to hug himself in the thought of his possessions, without considering that when put to interest, it would be more gratifying, as well as useful, to himself and others; and that he who hides his talents in the earth, will be despised by every person who is capable of feeling for the afflictions of others, or considers this world as a vestibulum of eternity." His constitutional remedy we believe to be syrup of sarsaparilla.

The treatment adopted by Mr. Aldis, (who has lately attracted a great share of public attention,) namely, extirpation of the morbid parts by means of medical applications, Mr. Farr condemns; and if it be true that he had ascertained, by application to Sir Astley Cooper, and the patients whom he states to have cured of cancer, that their cases were not cancerous; and that Sir Astley Cooper, whom Mr. Aldis terms his friend, declared to him, that he did not

know Mr. A., Mr. Farr is entitled to the thanks of every honest member of the profession, for the manly manner in which he has exposed his conduct. Mr. Aldis's specific plaister, Mr. Farr states, is composed of arsenic, potass, the roots of the common butter-cup (*ranunculus bulbosa*), and honey, the quantities of which he proportions to the effects. The topical application of arsenic, which forms the basis of this remedy, is very old.

Of Mr. Rodman's mode of treatment, which we have noticed in an early number, Mr. Farr states, that he has found it only to mitigate the sufferings of the patient, and in no one instance has he found its effects to be permanent. "Cold (says he) has the effect of rapidly increasing the disease, and warmth, on the contrary, has a tendency to suspend its action;" and in this, Mr. Farr thinks every practitioner must agree with him.

In a former number of our work, an intelligent correspondent proposed the application of ice or æther, so as to reduce the temperature of the part affected to 32 degrees Fahr. with the view of destroying its vitality; and this practice appears to us very plausible, provided its operation could be confined to the diseased structure and the skin covering the surface. The late Dr. Cheston, of Gloucester, informed us that he had succeeded in dispersing many cases of occult cancer, by applying leeches to the parts regularly twice a week, and a cold saturnine lotion. In every case in which we have known this mode of treatment adopted, cough and pains in the neck and shoulders supervened, to such a degree as to render its abandonment necessary. The different preparations of iron, recommended by the judicious and scientific surgeon, Mr. Carmichael, of Dublin, Mr. Farr has not found to succeed in *occult* cancer; but in *open* cancer he has found them to effect more than any other remedy.

For the cure of scirrhus, or occult cancer, Mr. Farr relies on the Corsican sea moss, the most eligible way of exhibiting which, he says, is either in the form of infusion or decoction, in the proportion of half an ounce of the moss to a pint of boiling water. After standing ten or twelve hours, the liquor is to be strained off for use, and kept closely corked in a cool place. The dose of the infusion is a wine-glassful three times a day, i.e. an hour and a half before each meal. More than a pint should not be made at one time, as it soon undergoes a change.

"It may be given, in this strength, at the commencement, even to persons of the most delicate constitution, without producing any peculiar symptoms; but about the sixth or seventh day, an increase of urine may be looked for; a slight perspiration also will be perceived, and if no other effects are produced by the eighth day, the quantity may be augmented to three-fourths of an ounce to a pint of water; and, in tolerably strong constitutions, four wine-glasses may be taken in the course of the day.

"Should this fail to produce an increased evacuation by the bowels, one scruple of rhubarb, in coarse powder, may be added to each pint of the infusion, it being necessary that the bowels should be acted upon in proportion to the strength and age of the patient, but it

is better that the constitution be under the influence of the medicine, before the bowels are moved by the addition of aperients.—Generally speaking, from three to four motions in twenty-four hours, have not the effect of diminishing the strength of the patient. After persisting in its use for ten or twelve days, and in some instances, even earlier, a degree of nausea may be experienced, accompanied by slight vertigo. These symptoms are not to be regarded more than as usual, and what may be expected, unless they become distressing to the patient, which rarely happens when the bowels are sufficiently acted upon.

“From the twelfth to the twentieth day,” Mr. Farr has observed “the motions usually to exhibit the following appearances. In colour they will be found much darker than usual, with small green specks. These gradually increase in size, and not unfrequently, several motions will be found to consist for the most part of this tenacious glass-like substance. Previous, however, to these, a quantity of slime is occasionally voided, which, if permitted to any extent, generally reduces the strength of the patient. This may be obviated by adding to the infusion a small portion of quince seeds, which, yielding a quantity of mucilage, serves to sheathe the alimentary canal; but, if the patient be of a full and gross habit, with a tolerably strong constitution, there will be no necessity for this precaution.

“Prior to these changes in the excrementitious matter,” observes Mr. Farr, “the tumour or tumours will, on attentive examination, be found to have undergone some considerable alteration in *structure* and *size*, and will have become *softer*, and the projecting points will be found more obtuse. The better to ascertain any increase or diminution in the tumour, he recommends two pieces of tape to be used, by passing them over the surface in transverse directions, previous to the patient’s commencing the medicine, and by so applying it, at any future time, the diminution that has taken place will be observed.

“During the exhibition of this medicine, patients have sometimes complained of griping pains; in which case Mr. F. joins with it the compound tincture of cardamoms, with the syrup of white poppies; and, in some few instances, tincture of opium. Should there be at any time symptoms which demand relief, they must be left to the judgment and discretion of the medical attendant, to combine with the medicine that which he thinks most likely to answer the desired effect.

“The method of treatment which Mr. F. proposes, has the effect, he says, of promoting the absorption of the coagulable lymph, thrown out by repeated inflammation, which forms the primary connecting medium, between the tumour and the healthy parts, such as the pectoral muscle, the ribs, &c. The absorption of this being effected, the tumour becomes moveable, and the surgeon, from its detached state, is the better enabled to complete its extraction, the operation being rendered less tedious, and the prospect of its success being considerably increased; so that, in fact, an operation which, from the strong adhesions, would have probably been deemed impracticable, he supposes can now be safely performed.”

The Corsican sea moss having been long celebrated as a vermifuge, Mr. Farr thinks that its effects on cancer confirm the opinion of Mr. Carmichael, that the disease possesses a vitality independent of the body: perhaps the same may be said of all organic diseases. On the production of parasitical animals we find the following remarks:

"That animals, as well of the parasitic as of other species, are capable of being produced without progenitors, by what has been called equivocal generation, has, indeed, been frequently attempted to be proved. In the vegetable kingdom, perhaps, this power of self-creation, if I may be allowed such an expression, is more apparent; for if *quick lime be scattered upon barren ground, —clover, AS I HAVE WITNESSED*, may sometimes be produced; and every farmer knows that upon ploughing up old grass lands, they soon become covered with annuals. But notwithstanding all the analogical reasoning that has been adduced in support of the independent vitality of cancer, we find all our attempts to comprehend such a theory, produces a confusion of ideas, which baffles our powers of discrimination to harmonize or arrange."

The dose of the infusion of the Corsican sea moss, we have observed, Mr. Farr recommends to be *gradually* increased in proportion to the effect produced; "but if the use of it be continued for two or three months, an ounce and a half, or even two ounces of the moss, may be used to the same quantity of water. After having persisted in it for about a fortnight at the greatest strength, should it cease to affect the constitution, or in any way influence the disease, it must be left off for two or three weeks, and recommenced in the proportion of one ounce to a pint of water, and then progressively increased as before, taking four, or even five wine-glasses daily.

"One of the greatest advantages attendant on the exhibition of this medicine," proceeds Mr. F. "is, that its action on the diseased part is so speedy, that no time is lost during its trial; for within a few days after it has been given, an alteration will be observed in the tumour, so that at most, if properly used, ten days or a fortnight will be sufficiently long for its continuance, to enable the practitioner to determine whether it would be advisable to persist longer in its use.

"This observation," he says, "applies more particularly to those cases where an operation has been proposed, and in which a longer delay might not only render the success of the operation doubtful, but the death of the patient be hastened thereby. Experience has convinced him that many persons afflicted with this disease, have lost all chance of an operation being performed with any prospect of advantage, by delaying it too long from a natural aversion and dread; but more frequently by the hope held out to them by practitioners, who profess to cure cancer by milder means, and who, when they have them once under their care, lead them on to a fatal security, by promises and persuasions, and by depicting to them hopes which, they well know, can never be realized.

But that there are cases, in which a few weeks, or even a few months' delay, is of no material import, will be readily admitted; and in these he advises a longer continuance in the use of this medicine, local treatment being conjoined with constitutional; for he has frequently seen cases, which at first appeared to have benefited very little, and after some time have shewn evident marks of amendment.

The author gives, in detail, two cases of scirrhus, with the view of proving the efficacy of his mode of treatment, and as a guide for practitioners to employ it properly. The Corsican moss, according to Mr. Farr's statement, "contains different salts, resin, and vegetable fibre." He thinks Iodine is also a component part. Its effects in scirrhus tumours, are probably produced by the latter active article.

Mr. Farr has also given a chapter on the *topical* treatment of occult cancer. Local warmth he considers of the first importance; and, as a proof of its efficacy in promoting absorption, he gives the following case:—

"A lady had had a tumour in her breast for some months, and, amongst the various things recommended to her for its removal, was local warmth. The most effectual mode of applying this, she conceived, was by placing her hand on the tumour, and retaining it there for several hours. Accordingly, she was accustomed every night, on going to bed, to lay her hand on the part, and, in a short time, she had so fully acquired the habit of doing this, that when she awoke in the morning, she found her hand in the same position in which she had placed it the night previous.

"By persisting in this for some months, she found, to her infinite satisfaction, that the tumour was dispersed." Mr. F. adds, "I have frequently succeeded in dispersing scrofulous glandular swellings of the neck, by keeping the part well covered; so that patients have come to me, in a few days, astonished at the reduction which had taken place, attributing to the medicine which they had been taking, that which, in point of fact, arose from the simple circumstance I have just mentioned. In the case of young females, who have these glandular enlargements, I am accustomed to direct them to wear a *colletette*, lined with cotton wool."

When the skin is not discoloured, he recommends the liquid opodeldoc; and after using it some time, to be rendered more stimulating, by adding the compound spirit of camphor. The following liniment, recommended by Dr. Rodman, he has also found occasionally useful:

Take of Olive Oil, three ounces;
Oil of Turpentine, two ounces;
Sulphuric Acid, thirty minims.

The sulphuric acid should be added to the olive oil gradually, and when well mixed, the oil of turpentine.

The latter ingredient, he says, may, in some cases, be increased to forty minims.

The following composition he has found a most useful application :

Take of Camphor, one drachm ;
Diuretic Salt, two drachms ;
Simple Ointment, one ounce ;

To be well mixed together.

When pains in the diseased parts become distressing, he recommends a fomentation of the decoction of poppies.

From the use of mercury, in any form, either local or general, he has never witnessed any beneficial effects. Leeching has also proved of no use. Mercury, even in the small dose recommended by Mr. Abernethy, we have uniformly found injurious in open cancer ; and in a case of scirrhus, it so aggravated the disease, as to destroy life in a few weeks. The particulars of this case, and of others, which terminated favourably, under a course of subcarbonate of soda, with topical warmth, we intend to give in our next number. With respect to diet, during the use of the infusion of the Corsican sea moss, &c. Mr. Farr observes ;—

“ In recommending a form of diet, for patients subjected to this plan of treatment, I shall first observe, that during the time alkaline substances are taken, all kinds of acids should be carefully avoided ; and, although the present vegetable is not one which would effervesce on being joined with an acid ; yet, such union, in the stomach, would materially tend to diminish its effects ; and, I believe, it is generally admitted, that vegetable acids have a disposition to increase, if not to produce, the disease. Fruit should not be eaten, unless quite ripe ; and, even in that state, the patient is better without it. All vegetables of an acrimonious nature are exceedingly improper ; such as garlic, onions, mustard, horse-raddish, &c. All fermented liquors should be very sparingly used, if not altogether discontinued.

“ For breakfast, I generally direct patients to take either coffee, cocoa, or milk and water. The use of tea, particularly green tea, I strenuously oppose, on account of its influence on the nervous system.

“ For dinner, plain meats, either roast, broiled, or boiled, drinking water, either alone, or a little wine added to it.

“ It is also desirable to avoid the alum too frequently mixed in baker's bread. The best bread, I consider, to be made with equal parts of rye and wheaten flour.”

The observations of the author, on the modes which are employed by the different practitioners, to whom cancerous patients generally resort, prove him to be a practitioner of minute observation, extensive experience, and scientific attainments ; and the manner in which he relates his own mode of treatment, must satisfy every reader, that his object is not to enrich himself, but to communicate a mode of treatment to his brethren, which he considers capable of curing, in its first stage, one of the most distressing maladies that occur in the human frame.

HYDROPHOBIA.—At Pavia, new trials have been made, which prove the efficacy of oxygenated muriatic acid, in subduing the hydrophobia. Dr. Previsall had prescribed it with success, where the symptoms were advanced, in a liquid form, from a drachm to a drachm and a half daily, in citron water, or syrup of citron.

EXCESSIVE DOSE OF LAUDANUM.—In a late number, we have noticed a case of recovery from an ounce of laudanum, which had been retained in the stomach three hours, published by Mr. Yeatman, of Frome, in Somersetshire. In that paper, Mr. Yeatman contends, that instead of death being immediately caused in similar cases, by congestion or stagnation of the blood in the vessels of the brain, and of the lungs (for which bleeding is advised by the celebrated Cullen, and others) opium kills, by destroying the functions of the brain and nerves, in consequence of its sedative effects on the stomach, the nerve termed the *par vagum*, and great sympathetic nerves. On this principle, Mr. Yeatman, in a subsequent communication, states, that he adopts the prompt use of powerful emetics, vegetable acids, and strong stimulants, and deprecates the early use of the lancet. He illustrates his position by a case of death, in which an American physician opened the temporal artery, the moment re-action had been established by the use of the above remedies.

LEPROSY, &c.—A physician of London informs us that he cured himself of a most troublesome leprous affection of the skin, by washing the parts affected every morning and evening with the following composition :

Take of Oxy-muriate of Mercury, four grains ;
Pure Pyroligneous Acid, one ounce ;
Distilled Water, seven ounces.—Mix.

He had tried a solution of the oxy-muriate of mercury in water, without any beneficial effect ; and also other preparations of that mineral. Tar ointment, with the decoction and extract of sarsaparilla, were of no use.

In a case of lepra, of long standing, in a scrofulous subject, the tincture of iodine, in the dose of twenty drops twice a day in a glass of the decoction of marshmallow root, proved successful in the course of a month. For the phagedenic ulcer, termed by Abernethy pseudo-syphilitic, this tincture is also a very valuable remedy.

CHILBLAINS.—The following receipt for this annoying disease we insert by the request of an eminent surgeon :

Take of Citrine Ointment, one ounce ;
Oil of Turpentine, two drachms ;
Olive Oil, four drachms. Mix.

• To be well rubbed over the parts affected every night and morning.

ASTHMA.—We continue to receive very favourable accounts of the immediate effects of the oxymel of colchicum seeds in terminating the asthmatic paroxysm. The tar vapour, recommended on the

authority of a medical gentleman of experience, in our last number, has been inhaled by some with great benefit, but to others it has proved very injurious. In one case it produced a most distressing sensation of suffocation.

PRETENDED SURGEON-AURISTS.—In our Number for June, we noticed a pretended specific for deafness, advertised by a man of the name of William Rowden, who, from being an iron-monger, carpenter, and axletree-maker, at or near Salisbury, took upon himself the title of *Surgeon-Aurist*. We are happy to learn that our exposure of this man's practice, and his pretended cures, has frustrated his *honourable* pursuits. A correspondent informs us the learned Surgeon-Aurist has returned to his trade of a carpenter, in which he may still be annexed to the profession, if he has ability, by becoming the maker of *wooden legs*, &c.

We shall now give *some* of our promised observations respecting the pretended aurists in the Edgeware-road, at a place they chuse to call the Hermitage;—Well would it be for the ignorant, if, in spite of all the bills and puffing of these pretended aurists, their house had one of the necessary requisites of a hermitage—solitude!

We have not yet been able to obtain a sight of the letter these shrewd gentlemen condescended to address to Sir Astley Cooper, under the pretence that he patronized them, and to induce the unwary to suppose that he was connected with the concern; but we are promised it.—Of the **FACT** we are certain.

On persons presenting themselves at this hermitage, to have their *ears* amused and their purses unloaded, they are introduced to a *talkative woman*, who, by a lesson previously well conned, expatiates on the nature of their complaints, and asserts that it is connected with the system, &c. &c. She then persuades them to take a bottle of oil for external application, and some powders as internal medicine, for which the charge is 22s. or 25s.

The proprietor of this concern is a Mr. F. Haycock, who either being *incapable* of talking with the necessary *volubility*, or from *some other cause*, is not *visible*. He formerly lived at Chertsey, in Surrey, as a sort of quack medicine vendor, and there sold his *valuable* oil for 4s. 6d. per bottle, for which he now gets only 22s.

If people of common sense allow themselves to be so gulled, so far from being entitled to pity, they richly merit any evil such pretended specifics bring upon them;—the ignorant, however, ought to be protected by the legislature, who should not allow the *existence* of such establishments.

We know several cases where these pretended specifics have proved very injurious; and one recently, where a poor man had been seduced to buy five of these 22-shilling bottles, the composition of which so aggravated his complaint, that on obtaining competent advice, which he was obliged to solicit gratuitously, from having expended all he could raise upon these quacks, his case was pronounced **INCURABLE!!!**

NEW BAROMETER.—Mr. Baith, of Strasburgh, has published a discovery of a barometer, which, he says, will announce every change of the weather thirty hours before it happens, and will give notice of thunder storms twelve hours before they occur.

OXY-MURIATE OF LIME.—A few weeks ago, an infant child of Mr. Richards, of Chester, who had been left in charge of a servant girl by its parents, during the early part of the evening, having become very cross and uneasy, the girl took from the cupboard what she supposed to be a cordial occasionally given to the child, and administered a small portion of it. The infant presently became more violently affected, and remained in that state until the arrival of the mother, who, on being shown the bottle by the servant, immediately discovered the supposed cordial to be a poisonous mixture, called "Bleaching Liquid." Medical assistance was instantly summoned, but in vain. The infant continued to labour under excruciating agony; convulsions ensued, and about midnight it expired. The medical gentlemen have not published the means they adopted to counteract the operation and effects of the poison. Charcoal powder is probably the best antidote against highly oxygenated articles.

MEDEOGRAPHY.—Three vegetable productions, which might be advantageously employed in the practice of medicine, have been recently imported by Mr. Desmoges, from Senegambia. 1. The Anadec, a wood which the natives of Cape Verd islands boil with rice, and employ with great success in cases of dysentery. 2. The Lemé Lemé, a violent purgative, the use of which is pretty general among the negroes of that part of the coast. It is burnt and reduced to powder, like coffee. A tea-spoonful of the powder, taken in a glass of water, is the ordinary dose. 3. The Bougaune, the fruit of a tree which grows in Gazamarne, and the neighbourhood of Joal. When boiled, it is said to be a specific remedy against cholera.

POLYPAGIA.—An American journal reports the death of a man, of whom several accounts have been recently published, of his swallowing jack-knives, bullets, marble, &c. On opening his body twelve knives, (all shut), were found in his stomach, one of them four inches and a half in length, and one a quarter wide; and among them the pocket-knife of the Philadelphia physician who had attended him.

LIFE PRESERVER.—An experiment for saving lives from shipwreck, on Mr. Tregrouse's principle, which promises to be of great utility, has been tried with great success in Yarmouth Roads, by Rear Admiral Spranger. It consists in throwing, by a rocket a line from the ship to the shore; and when the communication is established, binding to that a deep sea-line, or any of the running rigging. When these reach the shore, a larger rope, sufficiently strong to bear four men in a chair, is conveyed to the vessel, and the chair pulled on shore by means of a small rope, from which it returns empty to the ship for a fresh cargo. On one occasion, the chair was on shore five minutes after the firing of the rocket.

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VOL. VII.

OF DR. D. UWINS,

President of the Medical Society of London, Physician to the City Dispensary, late Editor of the Medical Repository, Author of a Treatise on Modern Medicine, &c. &c. &c.

THIS eminent physician is a native of the metropolis of the British empire. After receiving a classical education, he attended the London hospitals and lectures on different branches of medicine, and became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, with the view of practising surgery in his native city. His mind, however, continuing active in philosophical research, and being ill adapted to cultivate a politic connection, without which the most skilful surgeon can make little progress in London, he repaired to Edinburgh, to attend the Royal Infirmary, and the medical lectures and societies of that celebrated school of medicine. Having resided there the usual period, and obtained the degree of M. D., he returned to London, and became a licentiate of the College of Physicians, with the intention of exercising the healing art among his friends in the city, for which the combined advantages of the London and Edinburgh schools must have qualified him in an eminent degree.

In consequence of the death of Dr. Kennedy, of Aylesbury, (a physician of great practical knowledge and scientific attainments,) and the urgent intreaties of many friends, he was induced to take up his residence in that town. Here he exercised the important office of physician with great credit to himself, and devoted his leisure hours to medical pursuits and the promotion of medical science, as the two works which issued from his pen, one on Modern Medicine, and the other on Epidemic Fever which prevailed in his neighbourhood, evince.

The office of Physician to the City Dispensary becoming vacant, he returned to town, and, after an active canvass, obtained the appointment by a large majority; and the punctual attendance, the success of his practice, and his humane attention to the patients, prove that the confidence of the governors has not been misplaced in him.

During his early residence in the metropolis, he wrote the medical articles in Doctor Gregory's Encyclopædia, which, we may venture to assert, are in no respect inferior to those of the Encyclopædia and Cyclopædia, which have since appeared.

On the resignation of the editorship of the London Medical Repository, by Messrs. Burrows and Thompson, Dr. Uwins, by the particular request of the proprietor and several medical gentlemen, condescended to become sole editor. This work was instituted at a time when many physicians of London complained of the encroachment of surgeon-apothecaries on what they considered to be *their* province,—viz. attendance at the bed-side of invalids; and when an infamous conspiracy against medical science, and surgeon-apothe-

caries in particular, was formed to drive, as they elegantly expressed themselves, apothecaries behind their counters, and to compel surgeons to confine their practice to manual operations, and, as some sarcastically observed, to unite their art, as formerly, with the trade of shaving and peruke-making.

The institution of a journal by surgeon-apothecaries, at such a juncture, was, indeed, a measure no less bold than meritorious. Messrs. Burrows and Thompson, by their able reviews of the works of the sticklers for antient or legitimate medicine, satisfied their readers that modern medicine consisted of something more than technicalities, and that it was founded on something like a solid basis, viz. anatomy, surgery, and chemistry, and that surgeon-apothecaries were as capable of distinguishing and treating diseases as certain pompous physicians of the English universities, or members of bodies, who ground their authority on a musty charter granted in an age of ignorance and superstition, to the protection of which men of science would be ashamed to avail themselves.

The institution of the Medical Repository was the commencement of a new era in the medical world. The surgeon-apothecaries of England treated the threats of the physicians of the old school, and their resolution to send their prescriptions to chemists, with contempt. — They continued to prescribe for their patients, and the Legislature soon afterwards confirmed their right, and placed them out of the pale of college insolence. Dr. Uwins, having received his medical education in the schools of surgery and pharmacy, conducted the Repository with the ability, spirit, and impartiality of his predecessors. His private practice continuing to increase, he was obliged to resign some of the departments to a Dr. Palmer and a Mr. Gray, and in those departments, a "strange falling off was" but too evident to the readers. Dr. Uwins has been succeeded by a Dr. Copeland, who, we are told, "*ruminates* his matter," and has satisfactorily (to himself) ascertained that spirit of turpentine possesses as many virtues as the wonderful Cordial Balm of Gilead, stimulating the languid fibre and quieting the action of the over excited. If a young practitioner were to apply to us for a character of a physician most worthy of his imitation, we should not hesitate to say—Dr. Uwins is that man: for Dr. Uwins is not only a good *physician*, but a good *man*. The physician who studies medicine for the benefit of his fellow-creatures, and whose reward arises from the relief he affords to the afflicted, is the man, who, like the great Boerhaave, seeks no compensation beyond that which is promised to those in another world, who discharge their duty conscientiously and to the utmost of their power on earth.

The author of "Authentic Memoirs of Eminent Medical Men of Great Britain," speaking of Dr. Uwins, observes, "To give a new view of medical science, is an arduous and difficult task, and the more meritorious in the individual who makes the attempt;—Dr. Uwins has done this with credit to himself."

MR. CHAVALIER.—We are very happy to find that the information we received of the death of this able surgeon is not correct. The correspondent, in whose report we placed such confidence as to

notice it in our Journal, says, "that he mistook the name for that of Mr. Whately." Of Mr. Whately's character as a surgeon, we know no more, than that he was generally respected by those who had the best opportunity of forming an opinion of his professional abilities.

PROGRESS OF MEDICINE --- (*continued from page 1137, Vol. VI.*)---By taking the preceding view of *new* principles, I have been confirmed in my previous opinions---that the term PRINCIPLE has lost much of its authority and power, by the application of it to many and trifling subjects. That elements, facts, opinions, and almost all other properties, have been dressed up as *principles* of science, to the great detriment of progressive improvement; that there is only ONE PRINCIPLE APPLICABLE TO ALL SCIENCES, and to ALL THINGS; and I have endeavoured to illustrate the proposition by some appropriate observations, yet limited to two branches of science, involved in that of medicine; namely, chemistry, and physiology of animal life.

The proposition, however, admits of as much support by an inquiry into the laws which govern the whole mundane system, and especially those which explain the phenomena of the human mind, and the moral actions of men.

It is hoped enough has been said on this subject, to answer the great and important purpose---of convincing the inquirers after knowledge, that the improvement of medical science has been, and still is, retarded by a most reprehensible disregard to nomenclature, not only in the nosological department, but in all the branches of natural philosophy which appertain to it; altogether fatal to rational induction, and deleterious to the dignity and improvement of human knowledge.

I shall, for the present, pass over certain other terms which are virtually technical from their application, and proceed to an examination of those which have an avowed inheritance in medical nomenclature, beginning with those of anatomy.

Anatomy is justly considered the basis of medical science, and is what ought always to be taught first in a regular series of education.

It consists of description and demonstration of the various distinguishable parts of the animal frame, with their respective arrangements and associations.

It demands terms of nomenclature, which are chaste in their derivation, determinate in their import, and limited to their proper meaning, that all men may judge alike, with respect to what each term is intended to represent; and, moreover, it is essential that they be representative of the characteristics by which one definable part is distinguished from another.

To point out those characteristics, then, must be the first attempt, in order that an appropriate appellation may be appointed as a representative of some individual substance or thing, and be limited to such representation; and that each distinguishable part may be provided with such an appellation.

I ask, What are the characteristics by which a nerve is distinguished from a muscle?

The answer is easy. The nerve consists of straight fibres, with brain; the muscle consists of straight fibres, with blood.

What are the characteristics by which elastic ligament is distinguished from membrane?

Elastic ligament consists of laminated fibres; membrane consists of interlaxed fibres. It is by these peculiarities, that the solids of the human fabric ought to obtain their classical denomination, and not by that loose, indeterminate, and ridiculous method, too long in use, and still persisted in—that of giving names to animal substances, which do not declare their *identities*, but their *functions*; or still worse, their resemblance to something else.

Now, nerve, muscle, elastic ligament, and membrane, are all the abstract solids of which the animal frame is composed; they each admit of modifications, and those modifications divide each of the classes into its respective genera. These genera admit of, and demand their individual appellations; and it will be seen, by referring to the anatomical table, that such appellations are provided.

Let the anatomist only go thus far with an appropriate nomenclature, and then I would freely leave him at liberty to employ what adjectives he may think proper for his ulterior purposes. But if, after all, he will persist in denominating the moving solid, after the ridiculous resemblance he may suppose it bears to a mouse, and its function, after the resemblance it bears to the actions of a mouse, he must expect and submit to reproach.

I would here remark, that a number of young men, well educated in the classics, and brought up to the study of medical science, who feel the value and importance of anatomical nomenclature, will no longer be patient under the employment of those terms, of which it is at present composed.

They are persuaded that it is essential to the *dignity* and *improvement* of the science to which they are zealously devoted, to strip it of those loose and idle terms, which are opprobrious, and have the strongest tendency to hold it up as a laughing-stock to the intelligent and systematic inquirer.

I hope and trust I have said enough to convince the anatomist, that the neglect of nomenclature, in his department, is reprehensible, and one of those causes which retard the improvement of medical science.

Physiology, from *φύσις*, nature, and *λογος*, a discourse, embraces all the phenomena in the universe; it therefore comprehends all the systems of science; but in that of medicine, it is limited to the explanation of the particular functions and modes of action of the distinct parts of the human frame, and of those animals which approach the nearest to man in construction and composition, and consequently, in functions and modes of action.

The similitude observable in the anatomy and physiology of the higher order of animals, to those of the human race, leaves but little probability, that any striking distinctions will ever be demonstrable, so far as relates to individual organs and individual functions, or even as relates to a more general comparison, except what is

ascribable to the difference of quantity and position, and a more or less acuteness of organization of their respective definable parts. Therefore, I shall limit my observations to the physiology of man, and shall endeavour to shew, that a want of an appropriate and determinate nomenclature of physiology, is deleterious to nosological induction.

It cannot be admitted that function can have existence, without an appropriate organization to afford it; and, at the same time, it must be insisted upon, that peculiarities of function are the inevitable consequences of peculiarities of organized animal matter. Nay, further, that a change of organization is certainly productive of a change of function.

This is a proposition, and is the keystone in the physiological arch; without which it would be deformed, and the whole fabric would be in danger of falling.

In building up a nomenclature of physiology, it will be requisite to fix upon the nomenclature of anatomy as the basis, and the proposition I have just put, as the instrument to keep all well connected. All the distinguishable parts of the animal frame may then be viewed separately, and be examined severally, as distinct subjects, both as to their organization and function, and each of them obtain a legitimate title to a distinct appellation, forming an intelligible system of physiology, luminously displayed by an appropriate nomenclature.

A nomenclature of such constitution and value, would shorten the verbose language so remarkable, and tend to improve the system of medical science in all its departments.

These considerations lead me into another department—*Nosology*.

I must confess I enter upon this part of the subject with some degree of reluctance, because I cannot avoid exposing the present systems of nosology to contempt, and their nomenclatures to ridicule. Such, however, is the apathy or idleness of the professors of this part of medical science, that they have not given themselves the trouble to discover the proper direction which they must take in the way of improvement, but they have, one and all of them, followed the same beaten path, in which the further they proceed, the more they get bewildered, and the more pains they take to decorate their science, the more they expose its deformity.—*To be continued.*

THE GUMS.—Mr. Koecker, Surgeon-Dentist, and Member of the Medical Society of Philadelphia, has published an interesting Essay on the Causes and Treatment of Wasting and Ulceration of the Gums, and Alveolar Process of the Jaw; which, in advanced life, he conceives to be the causes of looseness of the teeth.

The celebrated John Hunter, in his Natural History of the Teeth, speaking of the atrophy, or wasting of the gums, &c. observes:—"How far these diseases can be prevented and cured is, I believe, not known." Mr. Fox differs very little from Hunter on this point. He speaks of the affection in so vague a manner, and so much so indeed of its cure, that it is probable he never saw one effected, at least when it had advanced to any considerable extent.

The subject has evidently not been considered with sufficient attention by any ancient or modern writer.

"This disease," says Mr. Koecher, "I have met with in its different stages, and have always succeeded in curing it by the mode of treatment which I describe in this publication. Cases of this nature have their beginning generally in an inflammation and suppuration of the gums, which gradually extend to the periosteum of the alveolar processes and of the teeth, or they begin by an inflammation of these parts, which is afterwards communicated to the gums. They very rarely originated in the alveolar processes. The inflammation is sometimes violent and the suppuration extensive, and absorption of the process, &c. go on rapidly, while in other instances, they are so slow in their progress as to be scarcely perceptible, and the suppuration destroys the gums in a very gradual manner, attended by the absorption of the alveolar processes and their periostium. The teeth now losing their support, become loose and drop out successively. The disease seldom attacks all the alveolar processes at once, but generally begins at some one part of the mouth." Mr. Koecker has seen it commence at the teeth termed the incisors though more frequently at the molares. The crowns, necks, and particularly the exposed parts of the roots, are frequently covered with a greenish glutinous substance, and with adhering tartar. The spaces between the teeth are filled up with a tartar of a dark brown or greenish colour, but sometimes of the usual appearance; and, in other instances, he has even seen them so clean as to deceive a superficial observer, but a close examination has invariably found some tartar adhering to the roots, and pressing upon the alveolar processes, hid under the edges of the gums, and in the spaces between the teeth. The gums are, for the most part, much swelled and inflamed, attended by a thin pus-like discharge from between them, and the roots of the teeth occasioning an offensive smell. These parts sometimes exhibit a pretty healthy appearance, though never, as far, at least, as his experience extends, perfectly free from inflammation, as stated by Hunter and Fox.

This disease frequently, in the beginning, proceeds very slowly; and often affects only certain parts of the gums for many years. When once, however, it becomes general, it goes on with such rapidity, that while one tooth is dropping out, others are so loose, that the slightest pressure will almost remove them. Persons of robust constitutions are very liable to this affection of the gums, and it shows itself oftener after the age of forty than any other time. Their teeth are frequently perfectly sound, or very little affected with caries, though Mr. K. has occasionally met with them considerably diseased and painful.

Among other remote causes of the disease may be enumerated a scorbutic and scrofulous habit; the frequent and inordinate use of mercury; great irregularities in the position of the teeth; neglect of cleanliness; smoking and chewing tobacco; operations of different kinds, injudiciously performed, such as filing off the teeth when the general state of the mouth, from indigestion, &c. is not capable of bearing the unavoidable irritation which it occasions with

impunity, or when too great violence is used in the operation, even in a healthy state of the mouth. Coarse and acid tooth-powders may also be mentioned, as from the irritation which they mechanically and chemically excite in the gums.

By the above causes, a collection of tartar (without which Mr. K. has never seen this disease) is deposited upon particular parts of the teeth; and this becomes the immediate or exciting cause of the disease, and so long as it is suffered to remain, entirely prevents the success of such efforts as nature may make for the accomplishment of a cure.

When the disease has advanced considerably, and some of the teeth have already become much exposed and loose, they prove another and a more powerfully aggravating cause. The disease having, therefore, proceeded thus far, it may be considered as near its height, since the teeth will now fall out one after the other, till they are all lost.

The mode of treatment proposed by Mr. K. consists in first checking the diseased action, which has become habitual, and in producing a general healthy disposition in the diseased parts, and those connected with them, by removing the exciting causes; and, secondly, in preventing their recurrence.

The first indication is realized by extracting such teeth as are too much affected by the disease to be capable of permanent restoration, and by a complete removal of the tartar and glutinous matter covering the remaining teeth and their fangs, which produce the irritation in the membranous covering of the alveolar processes. The second indication is met by removing such remote causes as may still exist, or, if this cannot be done, by counteracting their influence. When of a general character, such as from scurvy, scrofula, or the effects of mercury, constitutional remedies combined with topical means are required. "Being local, however," says Mr. K. "that treatment to which I now beg leave to draw the particular attention of the reader, is only demanded. The remedies prescribed for the removal of the causes are of very great importance. Considerable irregularity of the teeth existing, such teeth as excite, from their unnatural situation, a constant irritation, either in the opposite teeth or upon their gums and alveolar processes, should be removed, and thus the effects of their irregularities prevented. Operations injudiciously performed, require such remedies as will remove the injurious effects resulting from them. The individual having been entirely neglectful in cleansing his teeth, or, where this has been done in an improper manner, more careful attention, under the direction of a skilful dentist, to these circumstances, will be demanded, in order to prevent the re-accumulation of tartar."

With the foregoing measures may be combined some astringent or tonic wash, such as the diluted tincture of rhatany root, which has been found more serviceable than any other application. Considerable experience and judgment are required, to discriminate, at once, between those teeth which may be capable of preservation, and such as ought to be removed.

The principal and fundamental curative means in the disease of the alveolar processes, are, the removal of teeth so much injured

from the effects of the disease, as to have become a direct extraneous substance, and, consequently, an exciting cause to further progress, as well as those which are at the moment, from a variety of circumstances, indirect causes, and most unavoidably become, in the progress of time, sources of the irritation and diseased condition of the surrounding parts. The disease, therefore, being so far advanced as to render it necessary to extract some of the teeth, this operation must precede every other remedial attempt; since, omitting this, a cure is impossible, and all other operations not only prove fruitless, but have an immediate tendency to increase the irritability of the affected parts, and the violence and rapidity of the disease itself.

It is hence a matter of considerable moment, to establish some guide, as far, at least, as the intricacy of the subject will allow, by which we may be directed in deciding upon those circumstances that ought to induce us to extract the teeth, or to make efforts to preserve them. In such an estimate, the weight which a number of considerations of a minute and incidental character should have upon the determination and conduct of the operator, must be left very much to his own judgment and experience. The incisores and eye teeth being the most important teeth, the main attention is always to be directed to them. They are, fortunately, from their natural situation, and from their peculiar formation and office, not only the most favoured, but they are, besides, capable of suffering more from this disease, without being destroyed, than the other teeth. They may, indeed, be preserved, even when not more than one-half of the alveolar processes remains, provided that a considerable portion of the fang continues united to the alveoli by its periosteum. I would always endeavour to preserve them, unless they are very loose. When they have lost their vitality they should be extracted, for the benefit of those adjoining. The bicuspidés and molares are much less favourable for preservation than those just mentioned; and the process of mastication imposes on them a greater mechanical irritation.

They are also more inconveniently situated and formed, and generally have three or four fangs; in consequence of which, the difficulty of keeping them free from tartar is not a little increased. These teeth should be extracted—First, when they are very loose, which Mr. K. and others consider a direct cause of disease, from the constant irritation which they occasion to the alveolar processes;—Secondly, when the alveolar processes have been so much absorbed, as to expose the spaces between the fangs of the tooth; since, in this case, it will be impossible to prevent the re-accumulation of tartar. The process of absorption is kept up by the irritation of the tartar, until the tooth becomes loose, and is then itself both a direct and indirect exciting cause of the disease.

“Not one of the molares (says Mr. K.) should be permitted to remain, when it has no antagonist; particularly if it be situated in the upper jaw. The utility of such a tooth is destroyed for want of an opposing surface to act upon; and it has therefore an influence upon the surrounding parts, not unlike an extraneous body. As, for instance, should there be, by accident, an interval between two antagonists, when the jaw is closed, nature uniformly attempts to

remedy the evil. The cavity of the alveolar process, in the first place, contracts at its bottom, and forces out the tooth, until it meets its opponent; by which the necessary stimulus is restored, and the morbid action cured. If a tooth be lost entirely, it produces, in a similar manner, the destruction of the one opposite. This long struggle of nature will involve, in a greater or lesser degree, all the other teeth in a like morbid condition. It is necessary, therefore, to end it by extraction.

Every tooth that has lost its vitality, as well as every stump, should be taken away, and also those teeth, which, from an irregular situation or direction, excite a mechanical irritation. Teeth to be removed, must be extracted with great skill, and all at the same sitting; because it would almost obviate, or, at least, greatly lessen the desired effects, if the operations were performed at different intervals. This advice, Mr. K. observes, is the result of much experience, and, he thinks, merits some consideration. The bleeding from the sockets should be encouraged with warm water taken into the mouth, at short intervals, during the intervals of the operations, and continued for some time, as the effects are of much importance. A gentle astringent may be subsequently employed for several days.

The following lotion has been found the most useful :—

Take of tincture of Rhatany root 2 ounces ;

Rose water, fresh 4 ounces.

In about ten or fourteen days after the removal of the teeth, the inflammation considerably subsides; the gums assume a more healthy appearance, and the teeth gradually become more firm in their sockets.

The tartar should now be removed; and there is often much difficulty in doing it properly. It adheres so firmly to the necks of the teeth and upper parts of the fangs, which are generally more or less loose—is attached so closely to the alveolar processes, and is, in many cases, so covered by the edges of the gums, and so concealed between the teeth, that it is not without the utmost care the operator can avoid exciting irritation in the gums and periosteum with the necessary instruments. The operation, on this account, is to be performed with the greatest caution and delicacy, in order as well to remove the tartar perfectly, as to avoid making the teeth still more loose. Instead of supposing that the removal of all the tartar at the same time may subject the teeth to disease, by exposing them to the action of the air, &c. as asserted by several writers, Mr. K. is of opinion, when it can be effected, the sooner they are relieved from such a pernicious coat, the more the dentist contributes to their preservation. “Yet,” says he, “we are, in this case, oftentimes under the necessity of contenting ourselves with the removal of a certain portion at once, and finishing the remainder after a lapse of eight or ten days.” As the tartar is most injurious in those parts where it presses on the alveolar processes, it is highly necessary that every particle of it should be removed. After the calcareous matter, or hard tartar, has been taken away, the removal of the green mucus is still an important part of the operation. This

cannot be effected with instruments. It may be done by dipping a piece of thick sole leather, or soft wood, in some liquid capable of decomposing it, and then rubbing the surfaces of the roots and crowns of the teeth with it, to be followed by the use of a soft brush. The dentist's care is now to be directed to the prevention of the re-accumulation of the tartar. Not only on this does a perfect cure almost entirely depend, but also the prevention of its recurrence. To effect this purpose, however the satisfaction, is quite an arduous task.

There is always much predisposition to form new tartar; and the difficulty of preventing it from settling on the teeth and fangs, is augmented by the great irritability and tenderness of the gums, the irritation or inflammation of the membrane covering the alveolar processes.

The frequent repetition of scaling the teeth with instruments, cannot prove a substitute for not keeping them clean. It has, on the contrary, a tendency to maintain great irritation; and the benefit derived in this way, without proper care afterwards, can only be temporary. Mechanical means alone, are, for the most part, either insufficient or too violent; and powerful chemical means are apt to produce such diseases of the enamel as to occasion caries. The only method, therefore, which remains, is to use these means combinedly, by which the bad effects may be avoided, and the advantages of both obtained. The rule to guide us, in applying these remedies, is, the further the disease be advanced, the more the chemical agency is indicated, and the less mechanical power is to be applied, and conversely.

Having scaled the tartar from the teeth with instruments, the following treatment should be adopted:—the patient should brush his teeth every morning and after every meal, with finely levigated charcoal of the areca nut, which possesses an alkaline property, with a brush, not so hard as to create much pain. After this process has been continued for about four weeks, and the accumulation of tartar found to be diminished, the powder should be used in the morning and evening only; and the brush and tincture of rhatany with rose water, after every meal. The brush should neither be too hard nor too soft; and so formed as to clean the spaces between the teeth, and to give that mechanical stimulus to the gums which is so highly beneficial. The internal gums, in the inside of the mouth, are considerably harder and less irritable than the external—a fact which has not been noticed by any writer. Tartar accumulates much more rapidly upon the inner than on the external side of the teeth, and hence a different brush for each surface is required. That for the internal side should be made of the best hogs' bristles, and cut from five-eighths to three-quarters of an inch in length; while that for the external is to be made of the best loose hair, and cut about half an inch long at the commencement; and as the disease decreases, it may be used a little shorter and harder. The patient should be directed to press as hard with the brush as he can bear against the gums and teeth, so that its bristles may insinuate themselves into the spaces of the teeth, and between the edges of the gums and the roots of the

teeth. The pressure of the brush is to be applied in the direction from the grinding surface of the teeth towards their roots, so that the mucus, which adheres to the roots, under the edges of the gums, may be completely detached. The mode of brushing the teeth, which Mr. K. recommends, he states, is entirely the reverse of that recommended by every writer on the subject. They all advise that the brush should be applied from the gums towards the teeth, the consequence of which is, that the tartar remains fixed close to the alveolar processes, and that some mucus is pressed into the spaces at each brushing. The intention they have in advising the brush to be thus used, is to excite the gums to grow over the roots again: but so far from this being effected, much injury is sure to follow this practice. There is a natural tendency in the edges of the gums to get their proper place, provided every thing that can interfere with this effort be carefully and constantly removed. By Mr. Hunter, very good effects are expected from scarifying the gums repeatedly; and Fox places still more reliance on the advantages of this operation. To Mr. K. it has always appeared as affording only temporary relief, and to be of no real benefit in permanently arresting the progress of the disease.

It should, he thinks, be discarded, since, though palliative in its immediate tendencies, it will occasion delay in the use of a more effective treatment, and therefore must, in its ulterior consequences, be considered as absolutely pernicious. By the extraction of one tooth, whose removal is indicated, more good is done, than by fifty scarifications; and if the disease be not so far gone as to require the extraction of any teeth, the immediate removal of the tartar has the same effects. If there be any inflammation of the gums, the mere pressure of the instruments on them, in scaling the teeth, must unavoidably occasion some bleeding, which, together with the removal of the exciting cause (the tartar), answers more directly and more permanently, than any scarifications for the removal of the inflammation.

The practice of fastening such teeth as are very loose by ligatures, as recommended by Fox, Mr. K. condemns; being, in his opinion, very injurious, and should never be resorted to, even where radical cure is no longer to be looked for. Teeth, which are fit for preservation, will grow again by restoring the tone of their periosteum, and the other surrounding parts, by the use of the lotion of tincture of rhatany and areca nut charcoal. The ligature not only prevents the loose teeth from growing firm again, but also tends to loosen those to which it is attached, for the following reasons. The gold wire, however thin and pure, has not sufficient flexibility to permit the loose teeth to grow in their natural situation, or to be applied without some irritating pressure on the gums and adjacent teeth. The ligature, made of silk, has the inconvenience, that it will contract when it becomes wet with the saliva, and therefore impose a constant straining upon the teeth.

The operations which are necessary to be performed on decayed teeth, such as plugging, filing, or removing deceased parts, must be deferred until they have acquired health and vigour to support the

irritation which they cause. Mr. Koerker observes, that he always delays such operations for at least a fortnight. An attempt too early to perform them, may not only bring on a relapse of the disease, but would probably prevent the successful results of the operation.

Artificial teeth should, if possible, be avoided, and only made use of under imperious necessity, and prepared with the greatest care and accuracy, in order to prevent any injurious mechanical influence upon the gums and those teeth which come in contact with them.

Mr. Hertz, in his late popular Dissertation on the Management, &c. of the teeth, a fifth edition of which was lately published by Messrs. Sherwood and Co. observes:—

“The best time for cleaning the teeth is before breakfast. I have long adopted the following method, which, from repeated and extensive experience, I can confidently recommend to my readers. Before its adoption, I suffered much by tooth-ache, and pains in the face and head. Indeed, the advantages I have derived from it have been so great, that I conceive it my duty to communicate it to the public, in which I have no other interest or view, than to lessen the sum of human sufferings.

“The first thing every morning, I rinse my mouth out with cold water; I then gently pass over the gums (inwardly and outwardly) a fine piece of sponge, fastened to an ivory handle, moistened with an equal quantity of tincture of the rhatany root and rose water; after which, I rub the surface of the teeth with a similar piece of sponge, moistened with the diluted tincture of rhatany root, as above, with the surface covered with *finely levigated* charcoal of the Areca nut. This I finish, by rinsing the mouth out again with cold water. I only employ a brush for removing any morbid secretion of the gums that may collect on the inside, and between the teeth. If this simple treatment be adopted, I will engage for it, that the person shall remain free from any fresh disease of the teeth, or pains in the jaw, and that the carious teeth, which may have existed at the time, will be rendered sweet, and the progress of the disease effectually suspended.

“For the knowledge of the charcoal of the areca nut, I am indebted to Dr. Lynd. Previous to my acquaintance with it, I made use of bark powder, but the charcoal of the areca nut I find to answer best, not only in destroying offensive effluvia, but from a slight alcalescent property, more effectual in removing what is termed *tartar*. The fibres of the bark, although in fine powder, I am certain irritate the edges of the gum.

“The general adoption of the charcoal of the areca nut, as a dentrifice, has induced some interested men, terming themselves dentists, to oppose its use, for the ridiculous reason, that no tooth-powder should be used without the advice of a dentist; yet some of these conscientious men puff off the most dangerous compositions, as safe and efficacious tooth powders. The fact is, that if the charcoal of the areca nut were the only tooth powder employed in this country, and the directions above given were strictly followed, there would be no necessity of having recourse to dentists.

“The charcoal of the areca nut has been employed by the natives

in the East Indies from time immemorial, and it is well known that no people in the world possess more healthy or beautiful teeth, or are more free from caries and tooth-ache. It has been said, that the charcoal of the areca nut cannot possess any quality superior to that of wood. This is a very erroneous assertion, for the powdered charcoal of the areca nut is both smooth and alcalescent, while that of the wood is a common dry powder, which, from its firmness, and fibrous quality, may do mischief."

As proofs of the innocent quality and efficacy of the areca charcoal, in preserving and cleaning the teeth, Mr. Hertz gives several respectable testimonies; "to which (says he) I may add that the Queen, and branches of the Royal Family, have used it for many years. As the health of the teeth, as well as every part of the body, greatly depends upon the stomach properly performing its office, it may not be amiss to observe, that whatever tends to disturb its functions should be avoided, especially spirits, and wine in excess. Costiveness being also highly detrimental to the teeth, the bowels should be kept open by the occasional use of an aperient medicine, which will at the same time promote digestion, remove obstructions in the liver, and purge the system of bile."

On the operation of brushing the teeth, Mr. Hertz makes the following observations:—

"A person cleaning his teeth with a *coarse mineral* tooth powder, and a hard brush, does considerable violence to the gums, especially the edges; indeed, so much so, that it is very common to rupture small blood-vessels, in consequence of which, a considerable irritation is produced, and kept up by the daily use of the brush. The edges of the gums inflame and tumify, and the whole gum becomes spongy; and the hair of the brush spreading in different directions, the gum is separated from the teeth, and thus the source of nourishment of the teeth, and particularly the external part (the enamel), is nearly, if not entirely cut off; in consequence of which, the teeth become loose, and in time fall out, if disease do not take place in their substance. From the irritated and detached gum, there is also a morbid secretion, which, collecting on the teeth, and becoming of a firm texture, forms what is termed tartar, for the removal of which, the operation of cleaning by the brush, to those unacquainted with the cause, appears to be more necessary; and it frequently happens that many people, at the age of forty, have, by this practice, the substance of their gums so abraded, that the upper part of the fangs of the teeth and alveolar process of the jaw are exposed. Instead, therefore, of advising people to keep their teeth clean, by the mechanical friction of a *hard* brush, and a *coarse mineral* powder, I seriously advise them to attend to the state of the gums; and when the teeth require cleaning (which they will seldom do if they attend to my advice), not to irritate the edges of the gums by the use of a hard brush, or a coarse powder. It is a very common practice in this country, to make use of a lotion of tincture of myrrh, which, by stimulating the gums, I am also certain is injurious. Arquebusade, and other lotions made of spirit, and the essential oils of vegetables, are also pernicious."

The areca nut being very scarce, and in general very dear, the common charcoal in powder is often substituted for it, which differs from it in its mechanical and chemical action; the former being much softer, and the particles of the latter so firm as to be capable of abrading the enamel. Having employed the areca charcoal (levigated) for upwards of twenty years, we can confidently recommend it to our readers as the best and most innocent that can be employed. It not only renders the teeth white, and allays irritation of the gums, but is a certain preventive against tooth-ache, caries, and spongy gums.

PHARMACY.—Mr. Samuel Frederic Gray, who styles himself a Lecturer on the *Materia-medica*, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and Botany, and an Editor of the Medical Repository, has published a Second Edition of a Work, under the title of Supplement to the Pharmacopœia, or Treatise “on Drugs and Compounds, which are not only used by Practitioners, but also those which are sold by Chemists, Druggists, and Herbalists, for other purposes, &c. &c.” Learned authors, or, rather, authors who wish to be considered learned, generally introduce into the title page of their works, some quotation from an ancient writer of celebrity, expressive of the object of the publication, or applicable to the subject of it. The classical Mr. Gray condescends to give half a line from the Latin Poet, Ovid, “*Scribere jussit Amor*,” leaving it for his reviewer to add the first part of the line, “*Dicere quæ puduit*.” It has been said, that men of science are subject only to those passions of the mind, which are completely under the control of reason, and that they are unsusceptible of the delicate operations of love. Probably the learned author is descended from the celebrated “Auld Robin Gray,” who, at an advanced age, was seriously wounded by the frolicsome Cupid; and had he not possessed the art of wooing his Jeanie with success, it might have proved fatal to him. If the learned author be really in love, we heartily wish him well out of it, before he has occasion to revise his Work for a Third Edition. Although he has given the book the title of a *Supplement* to the London Pharmacopœia, he has introduced the whole of that work in it!! To render the Pharmacopœia more extensively useful, he has added the important information, of which apprentices to retail druggists, especially in the country, are most desirous to obtain; viz. the means of adulterating drugs; the cheap articles that may be substituted for the expensive ones, in compounding medicines; cheap receipts for officinal preparations and popular nostrums!! Some months ago, a correspondent sent us the private pharmacopœia of a druggist, who, we believe, never sold a drug (capable of adulteration) in a genuine state, that we might expose this most infamous practice. We published a short extract from it, but, in consequence of an intimation from a respectable chemist, that the publication of such receipts was more likely to promote the traffic than otherwise, we committed the book to the flames. If drugs are the gift of the Creator, to cure the maladies of the afflicted, or to mitigate their anguish, which, in our humble opinion, does not admit of a doubt; he who adulterates them, for the sake of lucre, commits an

offence, which, in the mind of every honest man, is little short of that of murder, inasmuch as the life of a patient often depends on the due operation of the medicine he takes. Whether the object of Mr. Gray is to extend the sale of his work, by giving such information, or to acquaint apothecaries with the practice, in order that they may be on their guard in purchasing drugs, the following extract from his Preface will enable our readers to form an opinion.

“There is now first published, under most of the officinals, the method which the wholesale druggists of London actually use in making them. In giving these receipts, the author has quoted the original weights, &c. as this affords a hint as to the quantity which is consumed.

“Another class of receipts, which has never yet been published so distinctly as in the present work, is, the substitution of cheaper drugs for dearer ones, or the reduction in price of sundry articles. This, by many, is styled adulteration; and all the topics of vituperative rhetoric are lavished upon the practice, and very justly, when the substitutes or reduced articles are sold at the same price as those which the druggists technically distinguish by the appellation *verum* [true]. This, however, is a practice, of which no house of respectability would be guilty. These substitutes and reduced articles are manufactured for two descriptions of customers;—first, for those very clever persons in their own conceit, who are fond of haggling, and insist on buying better bargains than other people, shutting their eyes to the defects of an article, so that they can enjoy the delight of getting it cheap;—and, secondly, for those persons, who being but bad paymasters, yet, as the druggist, for his own credit, cannot charge more than the usual price of the article, he must therefore deteriorate it in value, to make up for the risk he runs, and the long credit he must give.”

Mr. Gray has also condescended to give receipts for making articles of perfumery, confectionary, pickles, pigments, &c. &c.!! The following extracts are fair specimens of Mr. Gray's publication.

“ICELAND MOSS. *Lichen. Muscus Islandicus. M. cartharticus. L. Islandicus. Cladonia Islandica.*—Slightly bitter; used as food in Iceland, either made into bread or boiled in water, the first water being rejected, and in the form of tea, against colds; mucilaginous, *antihectic*, and sometimes purgative. Got into fashion a few years ago, instead of the oak lungs, as being supposed to be a foreign drug, and *therefore* of value.”!!

“SPOTTED RAMSONS. *Victoralis. Allium magicum.*—Root-heating; used also as an amulet, preserving against *spectres* and *infected* air, probably inspiring courage by their stimulant qualities.”!!

“BLACK PEPPER. *Piper nigrum.*—Herb acrid, aromatic, stimulant, sialogogue; berry the same. *When the first skin of the berry is separated, by soaking in salt water, it is milder, and called white pepper, piper album.*(1) An inferior kind of white pepper is prepared from the over-ripe berries that fall from the vine. Dose, five grains to one scruple, and has been given in large doses as a remedy for intermittent fevers; also used to *drive away* insects.”

White pepper is the ripe berry, and the black the unripe; the former is considerably stronger than the latter.

"INWARD SKIN OF A FOWL'S GIZZARD. *Pelliculæ stomachi gallinæ interiores*.—To strengthen the stomach!

"EGG SHELL. *Ovi gallinæ testa*.—Antinephritic, cardialgic, in powder, half a drachm to a drachm.

"GUACHARO.—The peritoneum of these nocturnal birds furnishes a fine oil, used in cookery.

"CAROLINA PIGEONS. *Columbaria migratoria*.—Very fat, yield a fine oil, used in cookery. *Several thousand barrels* of this oil have been collected in a single year in America!!

"TOAD. *Bufo*.—Dried, diuretic, antihydrotic, in powder, to one drachm.

"FROGS' SPAWN. *Sperniola*.—Used as an ingredient, from whence to distil a simple water

"SALAMANDER. *Salamandra*.—Infused in oil, renders it diaphoretic internally, and externally useful in rheumatism.

"HYLA TINCTORIA.—The native Americans rub the skin of perroquets with its blood, to cause the growth of various coloured feathers.!!

"TURTLE. *Caro testudinis*.—Highly nutritive, analeptic, *antiscorbutic*."!!

"SKINKS. *Scinci*.—Dried, salted, and powdered, alexiterial, aphrodisiac, and diuretic.

"SCALY LIZARD. *Lacerta agilis*.—May be used instead of skinks.

"VIPERS. *Viperæ*.—Both live and dried, *alexiterial*, sudorific, *depurative*, very nutritive, but have given way to turtle.

"SERPENT'S SLOUGH. *Exuvia serpentis*. *Spolium serpentis*.—Used as a ligature in intermittent fevers; a practice lately revived, but without the mummerly of the serpent's slough, by George Kellie, in his tract on the medical effects of compression by the tourniquet: also to facilitate delivery, bound round the belly or loins."!!

Earth-worms (*lumbrici*) dried and powdered, taken from 1 scruple to a drachm, are diuretic!!

"HUMAN URINE. *Urina Hominis*.—APERIENT; *used in jaundice*, one ounce to two, *omni mane* [every morning]."

"FRANGIPANE.—Prepared by evaporating *skimmed* milk to dryness, by a gentle heat; used to form artificial milk, when the real cannot be obtained.

STONE-HORSE DUNG. *Fimus equinus*. *Stercus equi non castrati*.—*Antipleuritic*, and of great efficacy in asthma and difficulty of breathing; infused in pennyroyal, or hyssop-water, or in white wine, and the strained infusion drank: its effects probably owing to the sulphur that it contains.!!

"COW DUNG. *Fimus Vaccæ*.—Used as a cataplasm in erysipelatous swellings, being previously mixed with some unctuous matter to prevent its growing hard, and highly commended in the gout. Also used in calico printing as a cheap mucilage, in such quantity, that the printers are obliged to keep great numbers of cows to supply this article.

"SHEEP'S DUNG.—Used in dyeing, for the purpose of preparing cotton and linen to receive certain colours, particularly the red of madder and crosswort, which it performs by impregnating the stuffs with an animal mucilage, of which it contains a large quantity, and thus assimilating them to wool or silk."

Receipts.

"ACID OF ANTS. *Acidum formicarum*.—Ants, one pound; boiling water, four pounds; infuse for three hours, press out the liquor and strain: stimulant; used as a lotion in impotency."!!

"ALE. *Ala. Cerevisia alba*.—For 36 gallons: malt (usually pale), two bushels and a half; sugar, three pounds, just boiled to a colour; hops, two pounds eight ounces; coriander seeds, 1 ounce; capsicum, half a drachm; work it two or three days, beating it well up once or twice a day; when it begins to fall, cleanse it by adding a handful of salt, and some wheat flour mixed with cocculus Indicus, one scruple.

"TWO PENNY.—For 36 gallons: malt, one bushel and a half; hops, one pound; liquorice root, one pound eight ounces; treacle, five pounds; Spanish liquorice, two ounces; capsicum, two drachms; frequently drank the week after it is brewed: used in cold weather as a stimulant.

"BEER. *Cerevisia*.—For ten barrels: malt, eight bushels; hops, eight pounds; sugar, eight pounds, made into colour; Spanish liquorice, eight ounces; treacle, ten pounds.

"LONDON PORTER.—For five barrels: malt, eight bushels; water, a sufficient quantity to mash at twice; add, in the boiling, hops, eight to twelve pounds; treacle, six pounds; liquorice root, eight pounds; moist sugar, sixteen pounds, one half of which is usually made into *essentia binæ*, and the other half into colour; capsicum, four drachms; Spanish liquorice, two ounces; lint-seed, one ounce; cinnamon, two drachms; heading, two drachms; cool, add yeast, one to two gallons; when it has got a good head, cleanse it with ginger, three ounces; cocculus Indicus, one ounce; then barrel and finish the working; fine with isinglass or hart's-horn shavings. The public brewers use a mixture of pale amber, and brown malt, but amber alone is best for private families.

"Sugar, six pounds, is esteemed equal in strength, and coriander seed, one pound, in intoxicating power, to a bushel of malt: the sugar employed is burnt to colour the beer instead of brown malt, and it has been proposed to employ roasted coffee for this purpose; the other substances are merely to flavour the liquor, and may be varied at pleasure.

"The desire of evading the duty on malt has occasioned the discovery of its being necessary to malt only one-third of the corn, as this portion will convert the other into its own nature during the process."

"FROG-SPAWN WATER. *Aq. sperniolæ. Aq. spermatis ranarum*.—Collected in February or March, and distilled: cooling.!!

"CLYSTER OF SPIRIT OF WINE.—Rectified spirit of wine, eight ounces; oil of turpentine and oil of aniseed, each ten drops; sheep's head broth, half a pound. Used in dysentery.

Would not the effect of an injection of half a pint of spirit of wine into the rectum in the early stage of dysentery, destroy the life of the patient?

"*Italian poison. Aqua toffana.*—White arsenic, kali ppi. ana p. æq. aqua cymbalariae q. p.; used by the Italians in secret poisoning, produces *phthisis*." !!

"*MARKING INK.*—Lunar caustic, two drachms; distilled water, six ounces; dissolve and add gum water, two drachms: dissolve also prepared natron, half an ounce, in four ounces of water, and add gum water half an ounce: wet the linen where you intend to write with this last solution; dry it, and then write upon it with the first liquor, using a clean pen. If potash is used instead of natron, the ink will spread.

"*GREEK WATER.*—Is prepared and used in the same manner, for turning the hair black.

"*FLY WATER.*—White arsenic, one drachm; water, a pint: dissolve by boiling and sweeten with treacle; used to destroy flies.

"*GREEN SYMPATHETIC INK.*—Saturate spirit of salt or aqua regia with zaffre or cobalt ore, free from iron, and dilute with distilled water; what is drawn upon paper with this liquor will appear green when it is warm, and lose its colour again when cold, unless it has been heated too much.

"*BLUE SYMPATHETIC INK.*—Dissolve cobalt or zaffre in spirit of nitre, precipitate by prepared kali, wash the precipitate, and dissolve it in distilled vinegar, avoiding an excess of the acid. To be used in the same manner as the last.

"*DYER'S SPIRIT. Composition for Scarlet Dye.*—Is a solution of tin in spirit of salt, or aqua regia. The proper manner of making it is not determined, every workman having his own way. Spirit of nitre, ten ounces; sal ammoniac, one ounce; tin, one ounce: three-eighths is a good proportion for its preparation in a small way. Used in dyeing scarlet, and in making many vegetable red colours.

"*SENNERTUS'S MEDICINE FOR THE STONE.*—Prepared kali, one ounce; parsley water, one pound: colour with orange peel.

"*2. Dr. Chittick's remedy for the stone.*—Prepared kali. His patients sent him veal broth daily, which he medicated with this salt. This was in the year of my birth, 1766.

"*PICKLE FOR MEATS.*—Brown sugar, bay salt, common salt, of each two pounds; saltpetre, eight ounces; water, two gallons: Used to pickle meats, to which it gives a fine red colour, while the sugar renders them mild, and of an excellent flavour.

"*BATES'S EYE WATER.*—Blue vitriol, French bole, of each 15 grains; camphor, four grains; hot water, four ounces; when cold, add four pounds of water."

"*ESSENCE OF ANCHOVIES.*—Anchovies, two to four pounds and a half, pulp through a fine hair sieve; boil the bones with common salt, seven ounces; in water, six pounds; strain; add flour, seven ounces, and the pulp of the fish: boil, pass the whole through the sieve, colour with *Venetian red* to your fancy.(!!) It should produce one gallon. Or,

"*2. Use pilchard sprats, which are richer than herring sprats. Or,*

"3. Use herring liquor, from the white or pickled herrings."

"**BRODUM'S NERVOUS CORDIAL.**—Tincture of gentian, tincture of columbo, tincture of cardamoms, tincture of Peruvian bark, with compound spirit of lavender, and steel wine."

"**REFINED JUICE.** *Refined liquorice.*—Spanish liquorice, four pounds; gum Arabic, two pounds; water, a sufficient quantity: dissolve, strain, evaporate gently to a soft extract, roll into cylinders, cut into lengths, and polish by rubbing them together in a box: expectorant, in coughs, &c. Or,

"2. Spanish liquorice, *carpenter's glue*, of each 1 pound, in a sufficient quantity of water."!!

"*Aromatic lozenges of steel.* Are prepared with green vitriol and a little tincture of Spanish flies."

"**SNUFF.** *Pulvis nasalis.*—Leaves of tobacco, powdered, with many additions: as, cascarilla bark, to impart a peculiar flavour; sal nitri, to make it kindle more rapidly; common salt, to increase its weight; *urine*, sal ammoniac, pulverised glass, to render it more acrimonious than it otherwise would be; black hellebore, alum, sugar, corrosive sublimate; dried dock leaves, the bituminous umber, rotten elm wood, are also added, and many other substances, according to the judgment of the manufacturers, who keep their processes as secret as their being under the excise laws will permit.

"The celebrated Santeuil expired in horrible torments, in consequence of having drank a glass of wine into which some Spanish snuff had been put.

"**POWDER OF CORIANDER.**—Coriander seed, nux vomica, quassia, ground together; used by the ale-brewers!!

"**SHARP WHITES.**—Wheaten flour ground with alum.

"**STUFF.**—Alum, in small crystals, one pound; common salt, p. three; to mix with flour for baking!

"**ESSENTIAL SALT OF LEMONS.**—Cream of tartar, four ounces; sal. acetosellæ, eight ounces: used to take iron moulds out of linen."

"**STONE BLUE.** *Fig blue. Crown blue. Mecklenberg blue. Queen's blue. Indicum vulgare.*—Indigo reduced in price by adding starch.

"2. Indigo and whiting.

"**LITHOGRAPHIC PENCILS.**—Soap, three ounces; tallow, two ounces; wax, one ounce; when melted smooth, add a sufficient quantity of lamp black, and pour it into moulds."

"**CAYENNE PEPPER.** *Piper Cayenne.*—Capsicum leaves, common salt, each one pound; grind together; colour with *vermilion*; some use red lead, but this is injurious."

Is the learned Lecturer on Pharmaceutical Chemistry, not aware that vermilion is also a poison?

The author's remedies for the diseases incident to the human race, are very numerous; for ague, he has discovered no less than twenty-four, which are the products of this country, the most active of which are, willow bark, parsnip-seeds, chick-weed, *externally*! St. John's wort, elderberries, wake robin roots, &c. &c. For small-pox and measles, *only* three; viz. columbine-seeds, saffron, and rape-

seeds!! For head-ache, six; viz. wake robin root, hog's fennel, *external!!* vervain leaves, &c. For hoarseness, only one; viz. hedge mustard seeds. For beautifying the skin, twelve (cosmetics); viz. wake robin root, horse-radish root, fumitory leaves, &c. &c. For hooping-cough, three; viz. cup moss, pennyroyal juice, and winter marjoram!! For hic-cough, only one; viz. the carrot!! For asthma, five; viz. stramonium smoke, bitter sweet, and scurvy grass. For quinsy, only one; viz. black currants! For gout, twenty-seven; viz. centory root, strawberry root, heath, broom-seed, cranes bill, elm leaves, &c. For nervous diseases, only one; viz. Christopher root. For giddiness, three; viz. primrose, lime flowers, misseltœe!!! For two certain diseases, the learned gentleman recommends the *devil's bit*, *bitter sweet*, *bird cherry*, *hound's tongue*, *succory*, and *dandelion!!*

Mr. Gray must entertain a very high opinion of the London Pharmacopœia, to publish such contemptible trash, as a Supplement to it. The numerous extracts we have given from the work, which were taken at random, render any comment from us unnecessary; they speak for themselves, even to the understanding of our non-medical readers. In the mind of a medical man, the circumstance of such a strange jumble of Latin and English receipts, and ridiculous nonsense, should be re-printed, will excite some surprise. The title page affords a very captivating advertisement, and the author being an editor of a periodical medical work, has much influence in obtaining what is technically termed by booksellers, a *pithy* review, that is, a strong recommendation in a few words, without extracts. The review of the Work in the Journal of which the Author is an Editor, is so very pretty a specimen of this style, that we shall conclude this article with a copy of it in our next Number; and a few *practical* remarks on the *merits* of the work, and on different species of love, viz. of fame, lucre, &c.

TRANSPPOSITION OF THE VISCERA.—Several cases have lately fallen under the inspection of anatomists, in which nature has deviated from the customary order of arrangement in the contents of the abdomen and chest. In examining the body of an infant, who died at six weeks old, Dr. Campbell found that the abdomen contained only the liver and the gall-bladder, the upper portion of the stomach, the termination of one of the large intestines, denominated the colon, and the kidneys; the remaining viscera, which should have been contained in the abdomen, was found, with its own natural viscera, as the heart, lungs, &c. in the cavity of the chest. Mr. Desruelles, of Paris, has described the dissection of the body of a soldier, in whom the transposition of the abdominal and thoracic viscera was general. Mr. Windsor has described a *fœtus*, where the urinary bladder was found attached, for the length of six inches upwards, to the forepart of the abdomen, extending as far as the navel; and Dr. Granville reports a similar case, which fell under his inspection. The infant had all the external appearances of dropsy, but lived three weeks only.

ANIMAL MONSTROSITY.—Mr. Magendie, a French practitioner, of whose talents we have often instances to record, has

lately, in his researches into comparative anatomy, met with a singular instance of monstrosity in a dog, which is not only interesting, as an example of curious deviation in the natural formation and arrangement of parts, but will probably tend, by the inference to be drawn from the appearances, to set aside some established notions, connected with the structure of the eye; which may in the end lead to practical utility. The animal in question was produced, possessing no mouth, and but *one* eye.

“ Monstrum horēndum informē ^{longum} ~~nigra~~
Cui lumen ademptum.”

The eye was found destitute of an optic nerve, and yet the retina, which is the membrane on which the picture of objects is represented in the eye, was perfectly and naturally developed. This fact goes far in controverting the opinion, that the retina is a continuous expansion of the optic nerve, which minute and careful dissection of the visual organ may yet determine.

Whilst on the subject of deformity, we may briefly observe that Dr. Bidault de Villiers describes, in the “*Journal Complémentaire*,” a man having two distinct noses.—Mr. Barton, of Birmingham, has met with a double fœtus.—At one of the hospitals in Paris, a child was born, whose skin, over the entire surface of the body, was so wrinkled as to put on the characteristic of old age.

SPINA BIFIDA.—This is a disease extremely alarming and serious. It is a tumor at the lower part of the back, occasioned by a deficiency of a portion of the spinal column, through which a serous fluid gradually gravitates, distending the membranes which envelop the spinal marrow, as well as the skin covering the part: it is a defect in original formation, and is discovered at the birth of the infant. The most remarkable instance of this disease ever known exists in the case of a female, residing at Westminster, a patient of Surgeon Scott's: she is in her twentieth year, and has been twelve years in an irremediable state of lameness from excessive distortion of the lower extremities, occasioned by the disease of the spine. The tumor is of an enormous and unusual size: the following are its dimensions—over the tumor, from above downwards, 19 inches; circumference, 26 inches. A cast of it of plaster of Paris, taken by an Italian artist, and presented to Sir Astley Cooper, is lodged in the museum of St. Thomas's Hospital. The unhappy patient, as reported by Mr. Scott, appears now to be near the period of her sufferings: her case presents the most extensive disease of the kind upon record, and affords an interesting and instructing spectacle to the professional enquirer.

AGUE.—A new remedy for this disorder has lately started into notice, borrowed from the practice of our Gallic neighbours: it is a combination of Peruvian bark and sulphuric acid, and is denominated Sulphate of Quinine. We have yet had no opportunities of putting its qualities to the test; but if the numerous attestations, given by the French writers, receive credit, we may regard the new remedy as possessing remedial virtues in intermittent diseases, superior to the common and more simple forms of the Peruvian bark,

and it will, therefore, prove a valuable addition to our pharmaceutical preparations.

PRUSSIC ACID.—Drs. Macleod and Granville have lately witnessed the unexpected effects from this medicine of salivation and of ulceration of the inside of the cheeks. As a most powerful and deleterious poison its administration requires caution, and the liability of the above circumstances occurring, renders it still more incumbent upon the practitioner to be guarded and attentive during its exhibition.

THE BUCHU LEAVES.—A farther testimony in favour of the infusion of the Buchu Leaves is given by Mr. Scott, of Westminster, who has lately exhibited it in cases of inflammatory action of the membrane of the urethra, with the most decided and immediate benefit; in these patients, the “ardor urine,” continued distressingly pertinacious, and resisted the effects of alkalies, anodynes, demulcents, &c. but immediately yielded to the use of the buchu. This is a symptom that in persons of irritable fibre, renders this disease extremely formidable, and receives little relief from any of the usual remedies, whilst it obstinately continues its course, but slightly abated in violence, for weeks, and sometimes for months. In such habits, the use of injections is often very hazardous, being liable to produce organic derangement, as strictures of the urethra, disease of the testes, &c. and should, therefore, be entirely relinquished, or resorted to with much caution. Palliatives are then the chief resource, and the buchu leaves, by diminishing the irritability of the mucous membrane of the urethra, and inducing a healthy function of the urinary system in general, will prove a valuable remedy.

EPIDEMIC FEVER OF SPAIN.—Certain provinces of Spain, more particularly Catalonia and Andalusia, have been suffering the destructive ravages of a fever, which has nearly depopulated the districts in which it has raged, sparing neither age, sex, nor condition. Physicians have been its victims, as well as their patients, for

“Poets themselves must fall, as those they sung;”

and the philanthropy of the generous and humane French practitioners, who fearlessly entered, amidst the horrors of a desolating pestilence, in the succour of the afflicted, received, in but too many instances, the reward only of the silent tomb. The physicians, both of France and Spain, as well as of this country, are, it seems, undetermined, with regard to the true nature of this epidemic; and the question, whether it be or be not contagious, is at present agitated with much acrimony. Those of our own country, who have *personally witnessed* the fever, are inclined to pronounce it contagious; and where we are obliged to resort to the opinions of others to form our own, it is surely more rational, allowing pretty nearly an equality of talent to the disputing parties, to be guided by practical remarks, than by theoretical reasoning. A question of facts is not to be decided by analogical conclusions, or closet hypotheses; and the physician who presumes to determine upon such data, is little qualified to promote the real interest and knowledge of the profes-

sion; but thanks to the quarantine laws, whether the Andalusian fever be contagious or not, we have nothing to fear from it on this side the water; a *relation* alone of its horrors can reach us.

STONE FORCEPS.—Sir Astley Cooper has invented a new method of extracting small calculi from the urinary bladder of the female, without the use of cutting instruments. The instrument he uses is a kind of forceps, which is passed down the urethra into the bladder in the manner of a catheter, and when within the latter, its two blades are opened by the operator, and preserved separate by a stilette, until one or more of the stones are engaged by the instrument, when the stilette is withdrawn, and the calculus being lodged firmly in the grasp of the forceps, may be easily extracted by withdrawing the instrument. By this means, Sir Astley removed eighty-four calculi from the bladder of one patient. Such an instrument as this might often prevent the necessity of the more formidable operation of cutting for the stone, were the surgeon consulted at a period previous to the calculus obtaining any considerable degree of magnitude. Patients in an incipient state of calculous affections, should consult some well-informed surgeon, and be assured of the exact nature of their disease; when, if the formation of calculi be threatened, it may be averted by a proper attention to diet and regimen; or, if already begun, they may either be extracted, if not too large, or their augmentation in bulk and number prevented, if possible, by the exhibition of those remedies which may be judiciously administered for this purpose. There is no morbid cause which affects the body more formidable in its progress and its consequence, than stone in the bladder; and yet there is no disease equally serious, which admits more of mitigation, by strict attention and good advice.

POSTHUMOUS BIRTH.—The operation for extraction of the child after the death of its mother was formerly but of rare occurrence, and still more rarely successful. It is reported that Julius Cæsar made his "*entré*" into life in this manner; and his name has given to the operation the designation of Cæsarian. The instances have lately become more frequent in which its performance has been executed; and it is a source of solid satisfaction to learn, that such efforts have been more generally crowned with success. But still more rarely has posthumous parturition (which strictly means the expulsion of the child by natural efforts after the parent has ceased to exist) been known to occur, and but few instances of the kind are upon record. An interesting yet melancholy case of such a nature has recently happened in the practice of Dr. Schinck, a Prussia physician at Liegen. The doctor was summoned to visit a lady labouring under chronic inflammation of the air tubes, in the beginning of the ninth month of her pregnancy; but on his arrival he found she had been dead three hours, and no movement of the child could be discovered through the abdominal muscles. The Cæsarian operation was instantly proposed, but peremptorily rejected by the diseased patient's friends. The body was left the whole day undisturbed on the bed, and on the following day the clothes were changed preparatory to her interment, but nothing

remarkable was observed on that occasion. On the third day the body was uncovered for the purpose of being placed in the coffin, when a dead male child was found by it, whilst the placenta was partially delivered. Dr. Schink regrets that when the Cæsarian operation was objected to, he did not proceed to ascertain how far it would have been possible to procure the birth of the child in the usual manner.

QUACKERY.—It is with mixed feelings of pleasure and regret that we peruse the report of the Committee of Public Health of Paris. It affords pleasure in knowing that there does exist a body of sensible men, who are alive to the mischievous consequences of impudent and daring empiricism, and who possess public spirit enough to hunt it out and destroy its pernicious agency; but at the same time it fills us with regret, that our own country not only refuses to pursue any active steps to root out the evil, but that the spirit of it, in the most odious shapes, is preserved by the members of the very profession whose duty it is to follow it to its utmost haunts, and by ridding mankind of such a bane to health, establish their own character on the firm basis of a distinguished science, serviceable to mankind and honourable to themselves. A contemporary journalist, speaking upon this subject, observes, "We are happy to remark the great zeal with which the members (of the Committee of Public Health of Paris) have taken up the subject of charlatanry. By great perseverance they succeeded in convicting some of the most refractory and most impudent quacks before the court; and have gone far in checking the encouragement which empiricism never fails to meet amongst the unwary and the ignorant, by *preventing the publication of advertisements respecting quack medicines, and promoting as much as possible the knowledge of every trial and condemnation of quacks and impostors among the lower classes.*" God grant there were some such proceedings in England; we should then soon cease to hear of water doctors and nostrum venders, and the manes of many a departed physician of respected talents and memory would cease to be insulted by a combination of their names with the vile trash sold under the sanction of them.

VACCINATION.—This is a subject still remaining a bone of contention, and so it is likely to be, as long as its advocates are determined to close their eyes to the conviction, which the numerous cases of occurring failures must produce upon every unprejudiced person. We have before us the remarks of an Editor of one of the public Medical Journals upon this subject, which afford a specimen of the trouble some men will take to torture their inventive genius, into the production of something like argument, in support of principles, which their zeal or interest, rather than their understanding, opposes. He observes, "The last report from the National Vaccine Department in London, to the Home Secretary, is in many respects satisfactory; but we contend that too many concessions, and some of those too hastily made, are to be found in that document of failures, which should never be recorded, unless properly authenticated." The writer's reluctance to view the subject in its proper shape and colour, is, in the foregoing passage, rendered very

apparent: driven, by the nature of the report to the Government, to the necessity of acquiescing in the inevitable conclusion of the non-universality of the antivariolous qualities of vaccination, he boldly chooses the only alternative; and, by arraigning the judgment and correctness of the Vaccine Committee, insinuates, that his own opinions remain unaffected. Further on, he observes, "Does not every other human contrivance, the best imagined, the most zealously supported, present a greater number of anomalies, that defy prospective calculation?" We answer, *No.*—"Have not the annals of inoculated small-pox, when most in vogue, offered double, nay, more than double, the number of instances, where the artificial disease proved an ineffectual barrier to the irruption of the more formidable reality?" What do we hear? Is it possible such a question can be asked? What! the inoculated small-pox fail as often ("double, nay, more than double") in preventing the future supervention of the disease, as the operation of vaccination has been known to do? This is truly taking up the cudgels with a vengeance, and bids fair, if we make no resistance, to cudgel us out of our reason. It is a proposition to which no one will or can assent, and is as monstrous as it is absurd. "If we look to foreign nations," (the writer goes on to say), "where is the kingdom, the province, the town, the village, in which a *single note of complaint against the effectual virtue of vaccine has been heard?*" Here is a pretty broad hint, that foreigners have not only been better practitioners in the art of vaccination, but are more grateful for this "permanent preservation from that scourge, the small-pox," derived "from the prophylactic lymph of the ruminating quadruped." But the writer soon makes an unfortunate admission of doubt and inquiries, which throws his former vaunt into the shade. "The Central Committee for propagating vaccination in France, have told us in their last Report, that the multiplied experiments and numerous observations, made during more than twenty years, had proved, in the most positive manner, that vaccination was most efficacious in preventing the small-pox, and might, *possibly* (very modest) become the means of completely eradicating that disease. *The Committee had also heard of pretended cases of failure; but, instead of yielding readily their belief to them, they directed proper inquiries to be made into their reality, and the majority of those cases disappeared, like visions at noon-day;*" so that at last it comes out, that there is "a kingdom, a province, a town, a village, in which a single note of complaint against the effectual virtue of vaccine has been heard." Passing experience upon this subject, does not induce us to change the opinions we have often expressed, but rather to confirm them, if they needed confirmation. We shall continue to relate facts as they occur, and detail remarks elicited by the dispute, leaving the public to form their opinions, if the existing discrepancies allow them to do so, and to choose, for themselves, which of the two diseases they prefer for the purpose of inoculation. But parents should pause before they determine:—if vaccination really be what its advocates assert; if it be indeed "the most brilliant discovery that ever graced the annals of *inventive* genius;"

blinded must that parent be by his prejudices, who should prefer a disease hazardous and loathsome, to the simple and efficacious; but if, on the other hand, the prophylactic virtues of vaccination be (to say no more) equivocal, then an irreparable injury is put upon our rising progeny, in committing them to the care of a principle incapable of affording them security against a destructive enemy, to whose attacks we cannot consider them invulnerable.

LEECHING.—We have been favoured by a physician at Paris, with some thoughts upon the practice of Leeching, which we shall here notice in a brief manner. He says, that the abstraction of blood by leeches is not so favourable as is generally imagined. The blood is drawn in a very slow and gradual manner, which is well known not to produce equal benefit, in inflammatory complaints, as a full stream flowing through a pretty large orifice. The quantity also is always believed to be much more than it really is; for the natural aversion which exists in the mind to the appearance of blood, renders the sight of it formidable, and creates a false idea as to the real quantity with which the linen may be imbued; whilst a sufficiency is rarely lost, capable of producing much benefit; besides which, its local abstraction can have but little, if any, effect in unloading the vessels of any particular part, however near the insects may be applied to it; as the first and immediate effect, is upon the system at large only; and in cases of inflammation of the contents of the abdomen and chest (as of the bowels, liver, lungs, &c.), its beneficial operation is still more equivocal: besides which, in the latter cases, a serious objection arises to the employment of them, from the necessity of exposing that part of the body to the influence of cold during the operation, a circumstance at all times to be carefully guarded against, and is in itself alone capable of converting the remedy into an aggravating cause of mischievous consequences. There are, however, undoubtedly many diseases in which sanguisuction is really very useful, such as inflammation of the eyes, or hernia humoralis, whether from suppressed discharge, from irritation, from external injuries, or a variety of other causes; here a dozen or fifteen leeches, applied over the part affected, and the bleeding encouraged by hot fomentations, has a decidedly good effect. In obstructions of the liver and other viscera, the application of leeches around the margin of the anus, may occasion a seasonable relief; for the veins of this part empty themselves into others, which pass upwards through the liver and neighbouring organs; and thus, by diminishing the column of circulating blood in this part of the system, so much is of course prevented from passing into the superior canals already gorged with a superabundant quantity. For piles, likewise, it is the speediest and most effectual remedy; removing the distension, and diminishing the pain. In uterine disease it is also extremely serviceable; and, in fact, in all complaints requiring abstraction of blood, where the structure and situation of the parts allow of the application of the leeches immediately to or upon them.

PRESCRIPTIONS.—The following Prescriptions are recommended by Dr. Chapman, one of the most eminent and distinguished

Physicians of New York, for the complaints to which they are annexed:—

Coughs of Pleurisy and Catarrh:—

Take of powdered Ipecacuan, six grains;
Opium, one grain;
Calomel, three grains;

To be made into a mass with extract of henbane, and divided into six pills; of which, one pill is to be taken every four hours.

Dysentery, or Flux:—

Take of Castor Oil, one ounce;
Gum Arabic, in powder, two drachms;
Lump sugar, one drachm;
Laudanum, forty drops;
Mint Water, two ounces.

Mix it, and take a table-spoonful every hour.

Bilious Purging of Infants:—

The above, substituting Lime Water for the Mint Water, and administering it in smaller doses. The infusion of the Root of Blackberry is also an excellent remedy.

Griping in Infants:—

Take of Calcined Magnesia, thirty grains;
Powdered Rhubarb, six grains;
White Sugar, one drachm;
Oil of Aniseed, three drops;
Laudanum, four drops;
Spring Water, one ounce and a half.—Mix.

And give the infant a tea-spoonful as often as is required.

A table-spoonful of charcoal, taken twice a day, gently opens the bowels, and corrects fœtid stools.

Tenesmus, or that distressing Uneasiness and Pain which affects the extremity of the Bowels, in Dysentery or other Loosenesses, is relieved by the following:—

Take of Powdered Rhubarb, twenty grains;
Powdered Ipecacuan, ten Grains;
Opium, three grains;
Oil of Cinnamon, five drops;
Mucilage of Gum Arabic, as much as will form it into a mass, which is to be divided into four pills; one pill to be taken every two or three hours.

Flatulent Cholic.—

Take of Olive Oil,
Molasses, of each one ounce;
Water, one pint;
Common Table Salt, half an ounce.—Mix.

To be used as an enema.

Or, Oil of Turpentine, one ounce;
Mixed with the Yolk of an Egg:
Water, one pint, (or Mucilage of Gum Arabic).

To be applied in the same manner.

In the coughs of aged persons, or in cases where there are large accumulations of purulent or viscid matter, with feeble expectoration, the following mixture will be found highly useful:—

Pour gradually two drachms of nitric acid, diluted in half a pint of water, or two drachms of gum ammoniac; and triturate them in a glass mortar, until the gum is dissolved. A table-spoonful to be taken, in sweetened water, every two or three hours.

Ascarides, or Thread Worms.—

Two drachms of aloes, dissolved in a pint of milk, and thrown up as a clyster.

Or, Olive Oil, one ounce;
Lime Water, a pint.

As an enema.

Or, The Juice of Rue, or of Tansey, or of Wormwood,
four ounces;
Water Gruel, half a pint.

For an enema.

Or, Tobacco, half a drachm;
Boiling Water, a pint.

Let it stand a quarter of an hour, then strain, and throw it up as an injection. The smoke of tobacco may be also used in the same manner. But we must here caution our readers, in the use of these preparations of tobacco, particularly the infusion, as alarming symptoms, and even death itself, have been known to result from it. It should on no account be exhibited to children.

Or, Assafoetida, two drachms; dissolved in
Water Gruel, a pint.

For an injection.

Or, Liver of Sulphur, half an ounce;
Lime Water, a pint.—Mix.

For an enema.

Or, Common Table Salt, one ounce;
Water, a pint.

To be used in the same manner.

After using any of the foregoing injections, a small purge should be taken, which will bring away the dead worms.

Itch.—

Take of White Precipitated Mercury, fifteen grains;
Powdered Nitre, half a drachm;
Sulphur, one drachm;
Hog's Lard, two ounces.

Mix for an ointment.

Heartburn during Pregnancy.—

Take of Solution of Ammonia,
Calcined Magnesia, of each one drachm;
Cinnamon Water, two ounces;
Common Water, six ounces,

Dose, a table-spoonful as often as required,

Colds.—

Take of Laudanum, twenty-five drops;
 Sweet Spirit of Nitre, one drachm;
 Antimonial Wine, forty drops;
 Water, half an ounce.

To be mixed and taken at bed-time, the patient drinking freely afterwards of warm water gruel, or barley water, or whey. In the common examples of colds, and recent cough, the above will often remove the complaint; but if it be attended with much pain, or soreness of the chest, or difficulty of breathing, twelve or fourteen ounces of blood should be lost previously.

Scald Head.—

Take of Sulphur, one ounce;
 Lard, one ounce;
 Sal Ammoniac, two drachms.

Mix for an ointment, to be rubbed upon the part affected twice or three times a day.

Rheumatism.—If not attended by much fever, half an ounce or an ounce of the volatile tincture of guaiacum, mixed in a tea-cupful of water gruel, and taken at bed-time, proves often decidedly efficacious. In long protracted cases of rheumatism, dried powdered savin seems to be the most effectual remedy. Twelve grains are to be taken, three times a day, in any convenient liquid, and may be gradually augmented to three times the dose. The savin is a powerful remedy, but is too much neglected. Its sensible effects are, to heat and stimulate the whole system, producing particularly a glow on the surface of the body, with much itching, and now and then a copious rash, of very minute spots, called miliary eruptions. It causes also slight perspiration, which seems to be extorted by the mere force of excitement. The pulse, which, in the state of rheumatic affection, is often small, weak, and accelerated, now becomes full, active, and comparatively slow. No portion of the body escapes its wide pervading operation; every function being more or less invigorated, and especially some of the secretory offices."

RINGWORM.—Mr. Plumbe, a scientific surgeon of London, has published, on ringworm of the scalp, scald head, &c., what may be properly termed a *practical* Essay. The failure of most of the applications which have been recommended for ringworm of the scalp, has been witnessed by every professional gentleman.

Mr. Plumbe observes, "Whatever may be the opinion among the profession generally, as to the necessity of a more *minutely local attention* to cutaneous diseases than has been hitherto adopted, it has frequently occurred to me, that by the too frequent reference of many of them to constitutional causes, and the adoption of corresponding treatment, the most efficient and best plans of management have been quite forsaken: and even in those diseases, which in their very nature bespeak an origin entirely local, a considerable degree of carelessness of their characteristic features is manifested in the usual regulations laid down for applications to the part.

" In no instance is the correctness of the preceding remark fully borne out, than in that of the disease now under consideration. While it is the conviction of every one, that in the majority of cases which come under our notice, immense numbers of minute pustules are continually forming and discharging their contents on the scalp, and that a very minute portion of such contents is capable of producing the disease by its application to sound parts in the neighbourhood; yet the greater portion of the applications made use of, consisting of ointments, are more calculated, by being rubbed on the scalp, to diffuse the matter more extensively, and thus extend the disease, than to produce any certain and decided effect towards curing it.

" Viewing the matter in the above light, it has hitherto been in practice, as a preliminary step to any medicinal application, to effect the discharge of the contents of as many of the pustules as possible by pinching up the skin between the finger and thumb, and completely washing away what is thus forced out.

" Previous to this, however, an important step must be taken, already alluded to: *the removal of any hair remaining on the scalp which may appear to come away easily, and without pain to the patient.* This precaution is necessary whether pustules may be formed in great numbers or not; and not only should such gentle force be used as is consistent with ease to the patient in trying to remove hair of the diseased part, but that which is apparently healthy surrounding the margin, should be submitted to the same test; for it does not unfrequently happen that the hair will easily separate at a small distance from this, without pain, and lead to the discovery of mischief to a greater extent than was first suspected. It must be taken for granted, that those hairs which will separate with a small degree of force, have lost the means of support and nourishment either as the consequence of the formation of a pustule around them, or from the influence of the irritation of the disease on its secretory structure, which has been explained: and that their remaining sticking in the scalp can only be productive of further irritation on that part.

" This being their influence under such circumstances, no objection can arise to their removal by lenient means. A more discriminating application of this principle of treatment is highly necessary here, however, than the pitch cap seems to afford; and the benefit of this practice will amply reward the little additional trouble which may be necessary to the judicious use of a pair of small forceps in its accomplishment. It is presumed that we have had experience enough of the futility of any medicinal application, where no attention to this point has been observed. Shaving the part may be considered, though, necessary in all cases after the loose hair has been removed, no effectual substitute for it; and when adopted with this previous precaution, it has an important disadvantage, by leaving the extremities of the hair sticking in the skin, and exciting to a considerable degree of subsequent irritation, and, possibly, increased number of pustules.

" The removal of the hair having been effected, the extent of the disease fully exposed, the removal of the contents of the pustules, in the manner described, is the next step to be taken. This having been effected, and the part washed with warm water and soap, some astringent application, possessing *the power of taking from the secretion its infectious properties, and, at the same time, sufficiently powerful to constrict the vessels from which it flows and lessen its quantity*, may be made use of.

" A solution of the Sulphate of Copper has been employed in some cases for this purpose. I believe the object to be more completely accomplished, however, by rubbing this preparation, in a finely powdered state, on the part, and then washing it off.

" The slight inflammation which drawing out the hair and shaving the part occasions, usually produces a few more pustules than would probably otherwise occur, if not kept under for the first day or two by some sedative application. A careful examination should be instituted every morning; and if any pustules appear, they should be at once removed, and the Sulphate of Copper applied as at first to the part. After two or three repetitions of this application, no fresh appearance of pustules take place, and the circle of the disease is marked by small thin scabs, of a darkish colour, and the same characteristics, in other respects, as the common exudation from abraded surfaces of the cutis. These scabs separate in a few days, bringing with them a few of the remaining hairs which have separated, and leaving a shining and irregular surface, which gradually loses its inflammatory character, having now and then a little scurf forming on it till the new hair begins to appear.

" While any redness of the cutis continues, it is advisable to watch the appearance of the new hair; as it sometimes happens, where this is produced very quickly after the disease has been subdued, that the excitement it occasions is followed by a slight fluid secretion, concreting into minute scabs, and contributing to retard the production of a strong and healthy cuticle.

" The effects of the disease on the scalp, where a great number of pustules have been formed, is such as to prevent a rational hope of strong and healthy hair covering the part in a shorter period than six weeks, or two months; at the end of three months, however, it will usually have attained its original strength.

" After the adoption of the practice described, we shall not, as heretofore, be dependant on the growth of fresh hair, and its soundness in the part, for a test of the termination of the disease; for, if this be fully carried into effect, the occurrence of fresh pustules will be prevented, and the specific action of the part, if any should remain after the separation of the scabs, will subside long before the new hair makes its appearance.

" The positive and decided manner in which any thing like depilation has been condemned by Dr. Willan and others, appears to call very loudly for my attention in this part of the subject. A principle, which experience fully justifies me in pronouncing a most important one, in the successful treatment of the disease, has

been formerly denounced by this author, and others who have followed him, as doing more mischief to the scalp in one day, 'than the disease, left to itself, would effect in three years.' This sweeping assertion is, it is true, somewhat qualified by the conjunction, 'if the head were kept clean;' and knowing, as we do, that, under such circumstances, the disease can do *no* permanent harm; and bearing in mind also, what has been said, in a preceding page, of the influence of cleanliness, in checking its extension; if we believed that any mischief at all, arose from forcibly separating the hair, we might yield a qualified assent to this opinion.

It is not, however, with cases in which cleanliness to its completest extent, has been observed, that we have often to deal; and whatever may be the influence of the forcible removal of the hair by its roots from the parts affected, on the structure secreting such hair, as regards its reproduction, little doubt will be entertained that the disease itself, where the slightest attention to cleanliness is observed, has no properties likely to produce a *permanently prejudicial* effect of this kind.—*To be continued.*

EDUCATION.—GENTLEMEN,—The readiness with which you gave insertion to my letter of the 12th of August last, and the notice which has been taken of it by several of your intelligent correspondents, induces me to trespass once more on your valuable pages; and I do so with the less reluctance, because I can conceive no subject of greater public importance, than the management of females in the early stages of life. I think it an object of the highest importance to preserve the shape, to keep the shoulders, back, and the body straight, and to do this by the means of back-bones and dumb-bells, in preference to the system of lying in a horizontal position, which is not only injurious to the health, but a serious waste of time. From the use of dumb-bells, I have never known any mischief to arise, provided the weight of them is proportioned to the age and strength of the pupil; on the contrary, consider it a much more wholesome exercise. Cases of pulmonary complaints and consumption have not unfrequently come under my notice; and I believe them often to arise from a want of attention to the carriage of young ladies, both walking and sitting, in early life. The forms which are used in schools without backs, are extremely likely to produce the habit of stooping, unless continually corrected by the attention of the governess. Exercise is of the utmost importance, and as much time as possible should be devoted to it; and I much disapprove of the practice of some schools, which oblige young ladies to carry books, and learn their tasks when out walking. At this time their minds ought to be relaxed, as well as their bodies, otherwise the exercise will be of little use to them. When the weather will not permit exercise in the open air, dancing ought not to be omitted. With these observations, I shall close my letter, fearing that I have already trespassed too much on your patience.

I remain, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

April 20th, 1821.

ELIZA J—.

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VOL. VII.

ON THE PECULIAR PROPERTIES OF PURGATIVE MEDICINES.

By Mr. James Scott, Surgeon, &c.

THE late Dr. Beddoes observed, that every body gave themselves credit for three species of knowledge, viz.—“*The art of mending a dull fire, politics, and physic.*” Now, agreeable as may be the result of the former, and interesting as may be the consideration of the latter, both yield, in individual importance, to the last.

The department of physic more generally the subject of popular attention and practice, is that comprising the art of administering purgative medicines; for they are not only demanded by the sick, but are in some degree essential to the preservation of health; and there are but few persons, whether they be ill or well, who do not, many times within the course of a year, resort to the remedial or the prophylactic virtues of this class of medicines. It is, then, an established fact, that purgatives are very extensively used by the world at large, unassisted by the advice, and undirected by the opinions, of the members of the medical profession. Every one is guided by his own particular feelings or judgment, as to the necessity for resorting to them; and it is not more probable, that the selection of the particular article shall be made with a better discrimination, than the determination which led to its adoption. But, granting that all, who thus undertake the office of physician to their own person, were correctly informed as to the proper time and season of using purgative medicines, still an ignorance of the peculiar nature and properties of the varieties of them, must often lead to disappointing results, and, in many instances, convert the remedy into a mean of aggravating the disorder it was intended to alleviate. An experienced physician, having determined upon purging his patient, feels it a subject of momentous import in forming his judgment of the best, safest, and most efficient means to effect it; and, in doing so, he has a variety of circumstances to take into consideration; such as the age, sex, constitution, present state of strength or weakness of the patient, the nature and stage of the disease; and, lastly, the peculiar properties of cathartic remedies; and according to his selection and combination of the latter, so will his remedy be successful or injurious. The quantity of such medicines is really generally of less moment than the quality; and mischief is, upon the whole, less likely to occur from error with regard to the former than the latter; which happens in consequence of the different actions excited in the body, by the various kinds of cathartic medicines not being understood by those who undertake to administer them. To illustrate these observations, we may, for the sake of simplicity, divide these articles into three classes:—

1st Class—Those which stimulate simply the muscular structure of the stomach and bowels.

2nd Class—Those whose action is more particularly directed to the blood-vessels of the same parts.

3d Class—Those that (in common with a purgative effect which they produce upon the stomach and bowels) are particularly directed to the biliary system.

The action of the first class seems to consist in a stimulus of the fibrous texture of the stomach and bowels, by which they are thrown into a quicker and more energetic motion; propelling their contents onwards with more rapidity than usual, and expediting their expulsion from the body. There are several varieties of this class; some being found to act more particularly upon the stomach and small intestines, whilst others act peculiarly upon the lower portions or large intestines.

Medicines of the second class occasion an energetic exercise of the functions of the exhalent arteries distributed upon the membrane lining the alimentary canal, whereby an excess of fluids is poured into the bowels, increasing the volume and fluidity of their contents, and, as a consequence, lessening the quantity contained in the sanguineous system at large.

Thus, the first class simply unloads the bowels, without reducing the vigour of the body; the second impoverishes the system, and reduces the strength.

The third class is directed in their action, upon the liver and its appendages; occasioning a more copious secretion and discharge of bile: they have by some been denominated cholagogues.

But it must be observed here, that the articles of these three classes possess, individually, in a *limited degree*, the peculiar properties of the rest. The first class stimulate, either immediately or remotely, the exhalent vessels of the bowels, and the ducts of the liver; thereby producing (though in small quantity) watery and biliary exudation: the second class, by occasioning an increase of bulk and fluidity of the contents of the bowels, produce a state which leads to a *cathartic* result; and the third class, by inducing a flow of bile into the intestines, furnish a stimulus, (for bile is the natural purgative of the bowels,) which has all the effects of the first class, and, perhaps, in some measure of the second.

A judicious combination of the different varieties of these three classes may be often made, and is frequently practically necessary, when demanded by two or more indications. Cathartic medicines also acquire a more powerful influence over the stomach and bowels in being combined; such combination modifying, at the same time, their individual operation, and correcting the general effects of the compound mass. These are facts which every medical man will bear testimony to; for his practice must have often shewn him examples of the efficacy and ease with which two or more purgatives (of the *same class* even) act, than either of the articles when administered alone.

Thus it appears, that the selection of appropriate cathartic medicines is not so safe and easy a thing to the generality of mankind as

is commonly imagined; nor can their use be resorted to with the efficacious effect of which they are capable, unless their peculiar properties are understood, and their administration regulated according to the influence they exercise upon particular parts of the alimentary canal, the peculiar nature of such influence, and the effect upon the system at large. To supply, therefore, information of this nature, is a desideratum which the readers of medicine will properly appreciate; and, it is hoped, that this humble attempt to effect so desirable an end, may give such a general outline, as will furnish a knowledge that may produce a nicer discrimination, and a more judicious and effective selection of these remedies for popular application, than are at present possessed by persons not conversant with medical practice.

We shall proceed with articles under our first class; and, first, of

ALOES.—There are three kinds of this article used in medicine; the *socotrine* aloes, the *hepatic* aloes, and the *horse* aloes. The **SOCOTRINE ALOES** obtains its name from Socotora, an island in the Indian Ocean, whence it is brought. It is purer than the two other kinds, of a yellowish, red colour, with a purple hue and a glossy surface; when powdered it is of a bright golden colour: it is very bitter to the taste, but aromatic in flavour: in smell it resembles, in some measure, gum myrrh. The **HEPATIC ALOES** is brought from the Island of Barbadoes: its taste is intensely nauseous and bitter: *it wants the aromatic properties of the Socotrine aloes*, and is much stronger and more disagreeable in smell, and of a darker and duller hue. The **CABALLINE, OR HORSE ALOES**, is distinguished from the other kinds by its strong, rank effluvium, and is only fit for the use of farriers. The constituent principles of aloes are *resin* and *extractive*; but the former possess little or no *purgative* quality; this property residing *almost exclusively* in the extractive matter, which is found to act more powerfully cathartic than an equal bulk of the *crude* aloes. The action of heat and air diminishes the purgative virtues of the extractive; and boiling, therefore, is injurious to the medicine. The Socotrine aloes contains *less resin*, and *more extractive*, than the Barbadoes aloes, and is consequently a brisker purgative, acting with more freedom and greater irritation. Aloes, like other gum resins, is very slowly dissolved in the human body; and when administered in the form of pill, passes into the intestines without affecting the stomach; and hence it is that its action is confined to the large bowels, particularly the rectum. In this way it acts as a stimulating purge, emptying the large intestines, *without rendering the motions watery*, warms the habit, and quickens the circulation of the blood: it produces, however, the piles, and often occasions a discharge of blood from the anus. The usual dose is from five to fifteen grains; but the best way of administering it is, to give a five-grain pill when the stomach is a little distended, and, a short time after, about a grain of powdered ipecacuan. When a *stimulus* is required *with the purgative effect*, the Socotrine aloes is to be *preferred*, as in cases of suppression of the menses; but, as a *simple purge*, the Barbadoes,

from its containing less extractive, is *less irritating*, and, therefore, to be preferred. Aloes is in almost universal use for bilious complaints, and is the basis of most of the advertised antibilious pills; but its qualities of heating the body, and inflaming the bowels, render it, in such disorders, an injurious medicine. It is better suited for persons of a phlegmatic constitution, costive habit, and sedentary life, and where the stomach is oppressed and weakened. Such are the effects of aloes, when taken in their simple state. In solution, it deranges the stomach, and produces head-ache; its solubility is increased by the addition of alkalines and soap; and it is thus made to act upon the stomach and upper portions of intestines, whilst, at the same time, its peculiar effects upon the large bowels are consequently obviated; but, as was before observed, its solution in the stomach often produces sickness and derangement of this organ. By such combination, also, the medicine appears to undergo a change in its *chemical*, as well as its medical properties; for its bitterness (upon which principle its purgative qualities probably depend) is thereby materially diminished. I shall here select some examples of the combination of aloes with alkaline preparations.

“Aloetic Pills.”—From the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia:

“Take of Aloes, in Powder,
Soap, equal parts;

Beat them, with simple Syrup, into a mass for making Pills.”

“Pills of Aloes and Ginger.”—From the Dublin Pharmacopœia:

“Take of Hepatic Aloes, one ounce;
Ginger Root, in Powder, one drachm;
Soap, half an ounce;
Essence of Peppermint, half a drachm;

Powder the Aloes with the Ginger; then add the Soap and the Oil, so as to form an intimate mixture.”

“Compound Pills of Gamboge.”—From the London Pharmacopœia:

“Take of Gamboge, in Powder;
Socotrine Aloes, in Powder;
Compound Powder of Cinnamon, of each 1 drachm;
Soap, two drachms;

Mix the Powders; then add the Soap, and beat the whole into a homogenous mass.”

“Compound Decoction of Aloes.”—From the London Pharm.

“Take of Extract of Liquorice, half an ounce;
Subcarbonate of Potass, two scruples;
Extract of Spiked Aloes, in Powder,
Myrrh, in Powder,
Saffron, each one drachm;
Water, a pint;

Boil down to twelve fluid ounces, and strain; then add of Compound Tincture of Cardamoms, four fluid ounces.”

In cases of dyspepsia, attended with flatulence and costiveness, the following pills produce a most salutary effect :

Take of Socotrine Aloes,

Assafoetida,

Soap, of each a scruple ;

Mucilage of Gum Arabic, a sufficient quantity to form it into a mass ; to be divided into twenty pills, three of which may be taken twice a day.

Where a powerful aloetic purge is desired, which is sometimes the case in obstinate costiveness, or in those persons whose bowels require a very active stimulus to move them ; either of the following formula may be used :

Take of Socotrine Aloes,

Scammony, of each 15 grains ;

Colocynth, 5 grains ;

Sal Polychrest, 2 grains ;

Oil of Cloves, 2 drops ;

Rub the salt, scammony, and aloes, into a fine powder together ; then add the powdered colocynth and the oil of cloves, and lastly beat it into a mass with mucilage, and form it into ten pills. Two or three to be taken as occasion requires.

Take of Hepatic Aloes, 1 drachm ;

Colocynth, half a drachm ;

Scammony, 1 drachm ;

Castile soap, 1 scruple ;

Oil of Cloves, 10 drops.

The aloes, colocynth, and scammony (in powder) having been well mixed together, are to be rubbed with the soap and the oil, and then beaten into a mass with simple syrup or mucilage, and divided into 36 pills. Two or three to be taken occasionally.

The two preceding prescriptions are well adapted for those cases, which, in common language, are denominated bilious ; they cleanse the alimentary canal, removing vitiated secretions of the stomach and bowels, to which generally the symptoms are attributable, restoring them to healthy action, upon which the bad or good qualities of their secretions depend.

When the motions are foetid or of a dark colour, or pasty or slimy, there is evidently a want of bile ; then, if the bowels be not weak or irritable, the following combination of aloes, colocynth, scammony, soap, and calomel, warmed with cardamom seeds, will generally restore the secretion of the liver.

Take of Compound Extract of Colocynth, 2 drachms ;

Calomel, half a drachm ;

Make it into a mass with a sufficient quantity of syrup, and divide into 30 pills. Dose, from two to six, occasionally.

The following also answers the same indication :

Take of Calomel, a scruple ;

Compound Extract of Colocynth,

Compound Gamboge Pill, of each half a drachm ;

Syrup of Ginger, a sufficient quantity to form 24 pills.

Two to be taken occasionally.

Purgative medicines are often judiciously combined with medicines of different and distinct virtues; and, perhaps, aloes undergoes this combination more frequently and more usefully than any other. Examples are now to be adduced, as the following:

“Pills of Aloes with Myrrh.”—From the London Pharmacopœia.

“Take of Socotrine Aloes, 2 ounces;

Myrrh,

Saffron, of each 1 ounce;

Syrup, as much as is sufficient;

Powder the aloes and myrrh separately; and afterwards beat all the ingredients together into a homogenous mass.”

These pills are well calculated as laxatives or alteratives, when administered to the quantity of five grains twice a day, or eight or ten grains every night or morning. In the dose of 15 or 20 grains, they gently move the bowels, whilst half a drachm or two scruples operate briskly. This pill has been long in repute as an emmenagogue, the combined action of aloes and myrrh having been found to promote the secretion of the menses; for this purpose, eight or ten grains may be taken twice or three times a day.

The purgative effect of aloes, combined with the sudorific effect of guaiacum, proves useful in cold constitutions and in aged persons. Example:

Take of Aloes, one drachm and a half;

Gum Guaiacum, one drachm;

Compound Powder of Cinnamon, half a drachm;

Honey, a sufficient quantity to make the mass into 48 pills.

Dose from two to four at going to bed.

As an emmenagogue, aloes are usefully combined with preparations of iron. Examples:

Take of Pills of Aloes with Myrrh, 1 drachm;

Precipitated Iron, half a drachm;

Syrup, a sufficient quantity to form it into 20 pills. From two to four to be taken twice or three times a day.

Or,

Take of Pills of Aloes with Myrrh,

Pills of Iron with Myrrh, of each 2 drachms;

Subcarbonate of Soda, a scruple;

Divide into 30 pills. Two to be taken twice a day.

Or,

Take of Pills of Aloes with Myrrh,

Compound Pills of Galbanum, of each 1 drachm;

To be divided into 24 pills. Two to be taken twice a day.

Although, from what was formerly stated with regard to the disagreeable effect produced upon the stomach by the administration of aloes in solution, yet it may sometimes be done to advantage. The following furnish examples for this form of the medicine.

"Tincture of Aloes."—From the London Pharmacopœia.

"Take of Spiked Aloes, in powder, half an ounce ;

Extract of Liquorice, an ounce and a half ;

Water, a pint ;

Rectified spirit, four fluid ounces ;

Macerate in a sand bath until the extracts be dissolved, then strain."

About two tea-spoonsful of this tincture may be taken for a dose ; it opens the bowels, and is one of the best modes of preparing aloes in solution.

Aloes and Myrrh may be also combined in solution, in the form of tincture ; it offers a convenient form for administering the two drugs. The following has acquired considerable celebrity as a stimulating emmenagogue.

"Compound Tincture of Aloes."—From the London Pharmacopœia.

"Take of Socotrine Aloes,

Saffron, of each 3 ounces ;

Tincture of Myrrh, 2 pints ;

Digest for a fortnight and strain. Dose, two tea-spoonsful twice or three times a day."

The following combination is an excellent emmenagogue, and produces an antispasmodic as well as stimulant effect :

Take of Compound Tincture of Aloes, half an ounce ;

Tincture of Castor, 2 drachms ;

Tincture of Muriate of Iron, half an ounce ;

Mix. A tea-spoonful to be taken in a little mint water three times a day.

It appears, that aloes, from its insolubility, passes through the whole alimentary canal nearly, before it is dissolved, and, consequently, acts specifically upon the rectum ; but if it be administered in combination with an alkaline salt, as potass or soda, or with soap, then its solution in the stomach is favoured, which organ, as well as the small intestines, are now stimulated ; and the operation of the medicine being quickened, its liability to irritate the rectum is removed.

The action of aloes, (besides a purgative effect) produces a determination of *nervous* energy to the intestines, and must thence be of considerable service in diseases of accumulated excitability of the brain, both from its office as a cathartic, and its quality of deriving sensorial influence to the bowels, and consequently lessening it in the head. But this quality renders it an injurious remedy in those conditions of the stomach and bowels which approach to an inflammatory character : erysipelatous inflammation of the mucous membrane of the intestines is perhaps an exception. Under some states of indigestion, the aloetic purge is the most effectual, and in none more than in those cases attended by black and offensive fæces, almost resembling tar ; such motions are known to be produced by a diseased function of the large bowel, denominated the colon, a portion of the intestinal canal peculiarly influenced by aloetic medicines.

RHUBARB.—The medicine of this name is the root of a plant growing on the lofty mountains near the town of Sini, in China. There are two kinds brought to this country, the one called Russian, or Turkey Rhubarb, the other Chinese, or East-Indian Rhubarb; but they are, in fact, both brought from the same place, the difference in the two arising from the method of drying and preserving it. The Russians receive it from the Chinese, and it undergoes such inspection and management, by order of the Russian government, as to make it superior to any that does not pass under the same ordeal. The best, or Turkey rhubarb, is found to be perforated with a large hole, through which the string has been passed upon which it is hung to dry. The following has been given as the character of good rhubarb: "It is of a whitish or yellow colour; dry, solid, and compact; moderately heavy and brittle; when recently broken appearing marked with yellow or reddish veins, mixed with white; being easily pulverisable; forming a powder of a fine bright yellow, having the peculiar nauseous, aromatic smell of rhubarb, and a sub-acrid, bitterish, somewhat astringent taste; and, when chewed, feeling gritty under the teeth, speedily colouring the saliva, and not appearing very mucilaginous." The large pieces should be broken, that it may be discovered whether they are decayed or rotten within; they should neither be musty nor worm-eaten: damaged pieces are frequently artfully dressed up, and coloured with powdered rhubarb. The rhubarb plant is cultivated in this country; and as it may become a valuable article of domestic growth, the following directions for its culture, given by Dr. Duncan, of Edinburgh, is recommended to those who may be disposed to attend to it:

"It is sown in spring, in a light soil, and transplanted next spring into a light soil well trenched, and the plants set a yard distant from each other, each way. The third year some plants begin to flower, but the roots are not lifted till the autumn of the fifth year. They are first to be washed in a large quantity of water, and after the fibres and small roots are cut off, to be well brushed in fresh water, and cut into pieces of a proper size. The brown bark is then rasped off, and they are again thrown into fresh water for three or four hours, in which they give out a great quantity of gummy matter. They are then taken out and laid upon twigs to drip till next morning; and it is chiefly at this time that they exude, at every part, a white transparent gummy matter, resembling jelly. They are lastly placed in a stove, heated to 120° or 140° till they dry. Twenty-five pounds of the recent root gave only eight pounds dry. It is not, however, yet fit for sale. All the wrinkles must be rasped and filed out, and the pieces thus dressed put in a barrel, fixed on an axis, and rolled about in it for twenty minutes or half an hour, when they get covered by a fine powder, formed by their rubbing against each other."

Extractive matter is the largest constituent principle which rhubarb possesses; but it is a *volatile odorous matter*, to which it owes its

qualities of a purgative, as well as its peculiar smell. This volatile principle evaporates by heat and by age, so that *long keeping, and any process conducted by heat*, deprive it of this principle, and render it *quite inert*. An infusion may be made in a covered vessel, which contains its purgative virtues; but little or no reliance may be placed upon the extract. Rhubarb is mild and gentle in its operation, acting without irritation or violence, except to some constitutions, in whom it occasions pain and griping; but this effect is lessened or removed by combining it with magnesia, or an alkaline or neutral salt*, as carbonate of soda, carbonate, or sulphate of potass; Epsom, Glauber's, or Rochelle salts, &c. In respect to that part of the alimentary canal, more immediately subject to the action of cathartics, rhubarb is directly opposed to aloes; the latter acting on the lower bowels, whilst rhubarb acts chiefly upon the stomach, and upon the upper portions of the small intestines. These two opposite qualities point out the advantage that may be obtained by a union of the two substances, in those cases where it is wished to act upon the whole alimentary tube, examples of which will be presently noticed. Rhubarb operates more effectually as a purgative when administered in the form of powder than in any other; and it should be mixed with the vehicle in which it is taken, *at the moment of its being swallowed*: draughts, or mixtures containing rhubarb, therefore, lose much of their effects *by standing*, as there is some chemical action between the fluid and the rhubarb, which weakens and destroys the cathartic qualities of the medicine. Ipecacuan, added to rhubarb, renders its operation *more effective*, and, at the same time, *milder*; and by such union the quantity of the latter may be reduced more than proportional to the quantity of ipecacuan added,—thus *fifteen grains of rhubarb, two grains of ipecacuan, and five grains of ginger*, act as efficiently as thirty grains of rhubarb alone, and is a dose which will be found sufficient for most persons. The stimulant aromatics also assist the operation of rhubarb, and correct its disposition to gripe; pepper, ginger, cinnamon, &c. therefore may be advantageously combined with it, especially in flatulent and debilitated states of the stomach and bowels; but in disorders of excessive excitement of the stomach, their use would prove injurious. Rhubarb is *not so quick* in its operation as *jalap*, but it differs from the latter, and, in fact, from almost every other purgative, in leaving behind it an *astringent* effect; and hence, as a medicine to remove irritating matters occasioning looseness of the bowels, it is an invaluable article; for its first effect is *to purge*, and the next to *constrict*; so that both indications are fulfilled by the *same* remedy. In relaxed and weakened stomachs and bowels, rhubarb, combined with some vegetable bitter and tonic, as gentian,

* An alkaline salt is a preparation in which one of the three alkalies, viz. ammonia, soda, and potass, is combined with carbonic acid gas, but in such a manner as that the alkaline still prevails, whilst a neutral salt is the union of an alkali with an acid, by which the peculiar properties of each are destroyed, and the compound which results is neither alkaline nor acid.

columba, &c., is advisable; for the latter may not only prevent the debilitating effects which the purgative might otherwise occasion; but it often immediately imparts such a degree of tone to the nervous structure of the stomach, as to render the organ more susceptible to the action of the purgative, and from which results a better, and a more complete and salutary operation. Rhubarb communicates more of its purgative property to water than to spirit; the latter of which is but so little impregnated with it, that the quantity of *tincture of rhubarb* necessary to produce catharsis, must be so considerable, as to render it a very exceptionable remedy, in consequence of the spirit, which is, of course, taken at the same time. The tincture is best adapted for an *addition* to other purgatives, whose virtues it may assist, and whose operation its warmth and stimulus correct.

An intelligent and experienced physician has remarked, that "this tincture, in the quantity of half an ounce to an ounce, diluted with an equal quantity of water, affords an excellent *warm purgative* draught for colicky or flatulent affections of the bowels. In weakness and laxity of the stomach and intestines, attended with a sluggish state of the viscera, (frequent causes of indigestion and flatulence,) this tincture may be advantageously taken, in conjunction with essential salt of Bark; and when accompanied with heartburn or vomiting of acid matter, the prepared natron (or sub-carbonate of soda) will prove an useful addition. On account of the stimulating nature of the spirit and cardamom seeds, it should not be indiscriminately administered in every case of pains in the bowels, or at least in such quantity as to operate as a purgative; but employed more as a warm stomachic medicine, in the quantity of two or three spoonfuls, in a little mint water, to which a little rhubarb or jalap powder may be added, when the bowels require to be emptied." Dr. Duncan observes, that "this tincture is designed as a stomachic and corroborant, as well as purgative: spirituous liquors excellently extract those parts of the rhubarb in which the two first qualities reside; and the additional ingredients considerably promote their efficacy. In weakness of the stomach, indigestion, laxity of the intestines, diarrhoeas, colic, and other similar complaints, these medicines are frequently of great service." But it is to be feared, that the use of spirituous preparations, *such as these*, may, in but too many instances, have led those accustomed to their stomachic and warming effects, to the habit of taking other cordials; and the custom increasing, at length no limits are set to its indulgence; and the apothecaries and distillers are equally resorted to, for a supply of the usual, though *baneful* stimulus. The eminent writer last spoken of, observes, "We are afraid that bitter and tonic tinctures, as they are called, are, with some, only an apology for *dram drinking*; and that the most certain effects they produce, are those of a slight degree of intoxication." But to return to our subject:

The infusion is weaker than the same quantity of the powder from which it is made; and in preparing a dose of it, double the quantity of rhubarb (necessary in powder) must be used for the infusion.

In small doses, rhubarb acts as a stomachic and astringent, proving a tonic to the stomach and bowels. The purgative dose of rhubarb is from twenty to forty grains, and its best form for administration, is in powders; in this manner, it removes the contents of the stomach and bowels slowly, but efficaciously, without debilitating or occasioning a discharge of little more than the *feces* themselves; it is so safe and gentle in its operation, that infants and pregnant women take it without inconvenience; and it is astringent as well as purgative, and both stomachic and tonic. The following are some of the useful combinations of rhubarb with other articles, to answer different indications.

For acidity in the stomach attended with costiveness, the following:

Take of Powdered Rhubarb,
Magnesia, of each half a drachm;
Ginger, in powder, five grains;
To be taken in a little water.

Acidity in the stomach and bowels of children to which they are particularly liable, is remedied by the following:

Take of Calined Magnesia, 12 grains;
Powdered Rhubarb, 8 grains;
Syrup of White Poppies, half a drachm;
Compound Tincture of Cardamom Seeds, 1 drachm;
Dill, or Aniseed Water, 1 ounce;

One or two tea-spoonsful, according to the child's age or violence of the complaint, to be administered as often as the griping and flatulence is present.

To render the flavour of rhubarb less nauseous, and in some degree to prevent its constipating effect, the salt, called *Sal Polychrest*, or Salt of many Virtues, is added; for example—

Take of Powdered Rhubarb, 1 scruple;
Sal Polychrest, 1 drachm;

To be taken in a little Cinnamon Water. The same composition proves an excellent stomachic, when administered twice a day in the dose of five grains of rhubarb and six of the salt.

For Bilious Complaints, as they are usually called, by which is meant affections arising from imperfect digestion, the following is a useful compound, as an aperient medicine—

Take of Rhubarb, 1 drachm;
Calomel, 15 grains;
Oil of Peppermint, 5 drops;

To be made into fifteen pills, with the addition of a little syrup; three to be taken going to bed, and worked off with two or three drachms of Epsom salt, dissolved in a tumbler of water, the next morning. These medicines may be repeated twice a week until the stomach resumes its healthy functions.

And here the opportunity of reprobating the indiscreet use of purgative remedies for bilious complaints must not be omitted. The term bilious has been admitted, and is now in universal acceptance as designating a symptom, or sequence of symptoms, which the

appellation is but ill suited to express; but, however ill chosen the term may be, if it were restricted to the expression of one common and simple association of ideas, there could be no objection, as a popular name, to its use; but in consequence of the increase and ever-varying complexity of diseases, both from moral and physical causes, as well as from the desire of expressing what was either not well understood, or was very common, by a name which was considered fashionable to be in every body's mouth, a greater variety of affections have been expressed by this term, than has ever been misplaced under any other in nosological arrangements. Objectionable, then, as the term is, it should at least be restricted to such limits as will enable it to convey a precise and definite meaning; and it ought, therefore, to be confined to the sense in which it was originally used, and to which it is at present prescribed by well-informed persons, namely, as an appellation for the disorders of digestion. But even if we restrict it to this sense only, a consideration of these disorders will soon render apparent the impossibility of removing them by any set form of prescription, or any particular combination of medicines, however judiciously composed, or fashionably recommended; and hence the fallacy, aye, and the mischief too, of resorting indiscriminately to the use of purgative medicines, (most commonly received from the nostrum venders, without the knowledge of *one single article* of its composition by the invalid), in such cases. Want of appetite, sickness, with head-ache, uneasy sense of fullness, distention, and pain of the stomach, irregular action of the bowels, which are generally costive, furred tongue, flushing of the face, eructation of wind from the stomach, &c., are all symptoms of a disordered state of the digestive organs; and may, according to the modern acceptance of the word, be denominated bilious: but constitution, age, sex, habits, &c., so modify them all, that no general rules can be laid down which will equally apply to every symptom, in every person. Purgings, however, forms one of the prominent requisites in the treatment of these disorders; and the particular applicability of individual cathartic medicines, will be noticed as our subject proceeds.

For oppression at the stomach, attended with flatulence, especially in debilitated persons, rhubarb is a very useful cathartic, and may be combined with aromatics, which assist its operation, and prevent its griping.

Take of Powdered Rhubarb, half a drachm;
 Powdered Ginger, 5 grains;
 (Or, Powdered Capsicum, 1 grain;
 Or, Compound Cinnamon Powder, 8 grains;)
 Cinnamon Water, 1 ounce:
 Mix, for a draught to be taken in the morning.

In the above formula, if capsicum be used (instead of ginger or cinnamon) it would be better to form it with the rhubarb into a bolus or electuary, with a little simple syrup.

Rhubarb, combined with a bitter tonic, is of much service, acts

more readily and without debilitating in relaxed and weakened stomachs ; as the following :

Take of Infusion of Gentian ;

(Or, of Columbo,
Or, of Camomile,) 2 ounces ;
Powdered Rhubarb, 25 grains ;
Tincture of Ginger, 1 drachm ;
Tincture of Senna, 2 drachms ;

Mix for a draught.

Or, it may be taken in divided doses so as to keep up a proper action on the bowels, and at the same time to give strength and tone to the stomach and system at large ; for example :

Take of coarsely powdered Rhubarb, 2 drachms ;

Sliced Gentian Root, 2 scruples ;
Fresh Lemon Peel, 1 drachm ;
Dried Orange Peel, 2 scruples ;
Boiling-water, half a pint ;

Let it stand for two hours in a covered vessel, then strain, and add an ounce of Spirit of Cinnamon. The dose is a wine-glassful and a half twice a day.

The following combination of rhubarb with jalap and ipecacuan, operates mildly and efficaciously ; completely emptying the stomach and bowels, without griping or debilitating :

Take of Rhubarb, in powder,

Jalap, in powder, of each 8 grains ;
Ipecacuan, in powder, 5 grains ;
Cayenne Pepper, 1 grain ;

Water, a sufficient quantity to mix it into a mass ; to be divided into four or five pills, or made into a bolus, to be taken at going to bed : it does not disturb the bowels during the night, but operates upon the whole intestinal tube early in the morning. It is extremely well adapted for the removal of sick head-ache.

In stomach complaints, with habitual costiveness, the purgative salts should be added to rhubarb, as they prevent the constipating effects that the latter is so apt to produce ; the following are examples :

Take of Powdered Rhubarb, 1 scruple ;

Epsom Salts, 2 drachms ;
Tincture of Rhubarb, 3 drachms ;
Peppermint Water, 2 ounces ;

Mix for an aperient draught.

If the stomach contain much acid, evinced by heart-burn, sensation of heat in the throat, with eructations of wind, then soda may be combined ; for example :

Take of Powdered Rhubarb, 20 grains ;

Prepared Natron (Soda), 2 drachms ;

Mix it in a wine-glassful of water, or, what is better, in a cup of veal-broth, which disguises the alkaline flavour of the soda.

To be taken when the stomach is oppressed and the bowels confined.

Take of Rhubarb in powder, one scruple ;
 Glauber Salts,
 Epsom Salts, of each a drachm ;
 Tincture of Rhubarb, 3 drachms ;
 Cinnamon Water, an ounce and a half ;

Mix for a draught to open the bowels. Or the following :

Take of Powdered Rhubarb, 25 grains ;
 Rochelle Salts, 3 drachms ;
 Tincture of Senna, 2 drachms ;
 Peppermint Water, an ounce ;
 Spring Water, 2 ounces ;

Mix for a draught.

Where a more active purge, than rhubarb alone, is wanted, it may be advantageously combined with senna and jalap ; as,

Take of Infusion of Senna, an ounce and a half ;
 Powdered Rhubarb, 20 grains ;
 Tincture of Jalap, 1 drachm ;
 Tincture of Cinnamon, 1 drachm ;

Mix for a draught. This acts both upon the stomach and bowels, and is a useful combination of cathartics to cleanse the intestines of children ; but, in such case, it must, of course, be reduced in quantity according to the strength and age of the patient.

To obviate costiveness, debility of the stomach and bowels, with heartburn, the following is useful—

Take of Rhubarb, in powder,
 Dried Subcarbonate of Soda, of each 5 grains ;
 Powdered Columbo Root, 10 grains ;

To be taken every morning.

With Calomel it acts generally without debilitating, and, with the addition of a little ginger, purges off slimy collections in the bowels ; as for example—

Take of Rhubarb in powder, 10 grains ;
 Prepared Calomel,
 Powdered Ginger, of each 5 grains ;

To be taken in the morning mixed with honey or treacle.

In some affections of the urinary organs, such as uneasiness about the bladder, gravelly particles in the urine, smarting in making water, &c. :

Take of Powdered Rhubarb, half a drachm ;
 Dried Subcarbonate of Soda, one drachm ;
 Balsam of Copaiva, a sufficient quantity for 20 pills ; let three, or four, or five be taken once or twice a day.

In dysentery, a combination of rhubarb and linseed-oil is found particularly efficacious, in removing the diseased secretions that increase the danger and pain of the disorder by their irritating acrimony :

Take of Tincture of Rhubarb, half an ounce ;

Linseed Oil, 2 drachms ;

Mix it with a little mucilage in a cup of gruel, to be taken night and morning. The night-draught may have the addition of 30 drops of laudanum, which, by taking off the excessive sensibility of the bowels, relaxes the spasm, and favours the action of the cathartic medicines.

In most cases of looseness of the bowels, rhubarb with ipecacuan is a safe and efficacious remedy after the administration of a purgative ; as

Take of Powdered Rhubarb, 2 grains ;

Powdered Ipecacuan, 1 grain ;

Prepared Chalk, 5 grains ;

Make it into a powder, to be taken in a tea-cupful of decoction of iceland moss, three or four times a day ; or, for the same purpose, the powder, before alluded to, composed of rhubarb, subcarbonate of soda, and columbo, may be administered, or the draughts of linseed oil, tincture of rhubarb, and laudanum.

For persons subject to spasms of the stomach and bowels from flatulence, a very excellent remedy is given in the *Edinburgh Pharmacopœia* ; viz.

“ Compound Pills of Rhubarb :

Take of Rhubarb in powder, 1 ounce ;

Socotrine Aloes, 6 drachms ;

Myrrh, half an ounce ;

Volatile Oil of Peppermint, half a drachm ;

Make them into a mass with a sufficient quantity of syrup of orange peel.”

“ This pill is intended for moderately warming and strengthening the stomach, and gently opening the belly. A scruple of the mass may be taken twice a day.” The quantity of a scruple will be found rather too much by most persons, and can be diminished according to its effect.

The practice of taking rhubarb by chewing it, is, to those whose stomachs will bear it, a most excellent method ; a little ginger may be added. Toasted rhubarb is inert, and the extract is not to be relied on.—(*To be continued.*)

FEAR.—The physical effects of fear have been elegantly and faithfully portrayed, by an accomplished contributor to the *Gazette of Health*, in the thirtieth number of this work. The author of these erudite sketches confined his illustrations to the impressions made by this passion upon man ; but brutes are well known (though their limited powers of ratiocination preclude mental emotion, as experienced by human beings) to endure it, in some instances, to the degree of extinguishing life. This is exemplified by the effects which have been witnessed of the terror excited in some of the smaller animals and birds, at the approach of the rattle-snake, and has been mistaken by most persons, as attributable to a charm, which this dreadful serpent was supposed to possess, of alluring its prey into its mouth. The Count de Buffon observes, in his *Natural History*, that “ the inhabitants of Pennsylvania are said to have

opportunities of observing this strange fascination every day. The snake is often seen basking at the foot of a tree, where birds or squirrels make their residence. There, coiled upon its tail, its jaws extended, and its eyes shining like fire, the rattle-snake levels its dreadful glare upon one of the little animals above. The bird or the squirrel, whichever it may be, too plainly perceives the mischief meditating against it, and hops from branch to branch, with a timorous, plaintive sound, wishing to avoid, yet incapable of breaking through the fascination. Thus it continues, for some time, its feeble efforts and complaints; but is still seen approaching lower and lower towards the bottom branches of the tree, until at last, as if overcome by the potency of its fears, it jumps down from the tree directly into the throat of its frightful destroyer." "But," adds the Count, "in order to ascertain the truth of this story, a mouse was put into a large iron cage, where a rattle-snake was kept, and the effect carefully observed. The mouse remained motionless at one end of the cage, while the snake, at the other, continued fixed, with its eye glaring full on the little animal, and its jaws opened to their widest extent. The mouse, for some time, seemed too eager to escape; but every effort only served to increase its terror, and to draw it still nearer the enemy; till, after several ineffectual attempts to break the fascination, it was seen to run into the jaws of the rattle-snake, where it was instantly killed." The Count does not state that this poor little mouse was immolated in his presence; and we are therefore a little sceptical, as regards the conclusion—that the animal at length ran voluntarily into the serpent's mouth. It is an absurdity to attribute any thing like a charm an irresistible attraction, which secures the rattle-snake its prey; it is terror, an *instinctive* dread, perhaps, that fixes the victim to the spot, from whence it beholds its horrid enemy. The mouse, in the above experiment, as allowed to by the Count de Buffon, was powerfully under the influence of terror; but still the principle inciting to self-preservation not having been totally merged in the horrors of apprehension, the little animal excited its loco-motive organs for the purpose of escape: but from its being a mere act of volition, uncontrouled by ratiocination, it was as likely to stagger towards its enemy, as from it. A letter from America corroborates our notion, that it is terror alone that secures the rattle-snake its victim; and in the instances detailed in this communication, the dread was so excessive, as to deprive the animals of life. The writer says, "A friend in South Carolina, to whom I was on a visit, invited me to a morning walk round his plantation, and recommended our fowling-pieces as companions. The day proved to be very sultry; and while my friend proceeded to give some directions to a gang of his negroes at a distance, he advised me to take the benefit of a shade formed by a wood adjoining the field in which we then were. I took the hint; and while leaning on the fence, (which was constructed on a bank between two dry ditches,) I was alarmed by the rattle of a snake very near me. I instantly sprang on the top rail of the fence, and the next moment discovered the monster in one of the ditches, within ten feet of the spot where I was seated. As I levelled my gun at his

head, and was in the act of pulling the trigger, his tail ceased to vibrate. Conscious, from his position, that I was not the object of his regard, and that I was in no danger from him, and confident that I could destroy him at any moment I pleased, I sat still to observe his further movements. As his eyes seemed to be riveted to a particular spot, I followed their direction, and discovered a wood-rat. At the moment of my first seeing this little animal, he was rising from a crouching posture, and endeavouring to retire by a retrograde movement. This attempt was immediately followed by a second tremendous exercise of the rattle, and the rat again sunk to the ground. I witnessed several repetitions of this operation; and the result was, that, at length, the rat appeared perfectly exhausted; the snake advanced towards his prey, and was in the act of taking it into his mouth, when I discharged my two barrels at his head, and killed him on the spot. Whether any of my pellets struck the rat, I am unable to say; but, after the closest search, we could detect no mark of violence about his body, and he was dead when I took him up.

“Some years after the foregoing circumstance had taken place, as I was accompanying a lady to church in a gig, we were alarmed by the rattle of a snake on the road side. After I had tranquillized the horse, and prevailed on the lady to hold the reins, I returned to the spot from whence the noise seemed to issue, and soon discovered the subject of our alarm. The monster was lying in a coil, ready to strike, but manifested no concern at my approach. Having armed myself with a long fence rail, I was in the act of crushing his head, when I saw a *rabbit* in the very same posture and condition which the rat had exhibited.—The fall of my weapon disabled the snake, and I soon dispatched him.—The rabbit I took into my hands, without an effort on its part to resist or escape, and deposited it in my companion's lap: but it died before we reached the church. I am confident that the animal had sustained no bodily injury either from the snake or myself.”

NEW MODE OF MEASURING TEMPERATURE.—Mr. John Murray, Chemical Professor at the Surrey Institution, has adopted a new and ingenious mode of measuring the temperature of the atmosphere, by which the unexpected consequence has resulted of ascertaining the changes of the weather, as corresponding to the indications of his thermometers; thus, at the same time, producing both a thermometrical and barometrical effect. His method is the following: he takes two of Breguet's metallic thermometers, (which is an instrument susceptible of the most delicate sensibility,) and places the bulb of one upon the floor, in a room without a fire, and the other he suspends about six and a half feet above it, when he observes that as often as the two thermometers differ 2° to $2^{\circ}.5$ from each other, the weather becomes variable and wet. Thus, on the 11th of November, the thermometer placed on the floor stood at $63^{\circ}.5$, whilst that which was suspended six feet and a half above, rose to 69° , constituting a difference of $5^{\circ}.5$; the weather is noted as “continued rain.”

Date	Time of day.	Position of Therm.	Temperature.	Difference.	Weather.
Nov. 12	9 30 A. M.	Floor	59.5	2.5	Fine.
		6½ feet	62		
	5 30 P. M.	Floor	59.5	2.5	Clear evening.
		6½ feet	61.5		
13	9 15 A. M.	Floor	56	2	Foggy.
		6½ feet	58		
	9 30 P. M.	Floor	61	4	Slight rain & during the night incessant.
		6½ feet	65.5		
14	9 30 A. M.	Floor	62.5	2.5	Cloudy.
		6½ feet	65		
	5 30 P. M.	Floor	64	3.5	Rain.
		6½ feet	67.5		

These thermometers are so delicate as to indicate the difference of temperature between the floor, chair, and table. The observations are curious and deserving attention, and may probably be rendered useful to the sick and the convalescent, as many diseases are much influenced by variations of temperature and moisture of the air; and an accurate knowledge of circumstantial data may lead to regulations with regard to them as to afford the delicate invalid a security against such contingencies.

GENTIAN.—Messrs. Henry and Cavendish, in their researches into the cause of the bitterness of gentian, ascertained that this drug contains—1. A very fugitive odoriferous principle;—2, A bitter yellow crystalline substance which they have named gentianin;—3, A matter identically the same as glue;—4, An oily matter, greenish and fixed;—5, A free organic acid;—6, Uncrystallizable sugar;—7, Gum;—8, A fawn-colouring matter;—9, Wood.

RHUBARB.—A cultivator of rhubarb on a large scale, states, that the best means of drying it is to strip it of its epidermis. It is a long operation, but both time and expense are spared in the end by the promptness and regularity of the drying. Several other persons, who have repeated the experiment, have met with the same results.

REMARKS on a PECULIAR IMPERFECTION of VISION with regard to COLOURS.—A paper appeared in the Philosophical Transactions for January, 1777, and another in May of the same year, describing the cases of persons, whose peculiarity of vision was such, that they confounded the colours of red with green, and pink with blue. Dr. Whitloch Nicholl has since met with similar cases, which are published in the seventh and ninth volumes of the Transactions of the Medical and Chirurgical Society of London; and, after the lapse of several years, in which he has given this complicated subject deep consideration, he comes forward with an explanation of these astonishing phenomena. His observations occupy a large space in the "Annals of Philosophy" for February, 1822; and we shall give as condensed a view of this interesting subject as possible, referring such of our readers as have inclination

and leisure to wade into the deeps of his reasoning, to the perusal of the paper itself: but it is necessary we should first premise a general outline of the theory of vision, as a preparatory step to the consideration of Dr. Nicholl's paper.

Vision is the effect produced by the rays of light having fallen upon substantive bodies, and, being thereby reflected from the surface of such bodies, strike upon the eye (or a nervous membrane called the retina); and, by their stimulus, transmit an impression to the brain, which, by this organ, is elaborated into a knowledge of all the phenomena which we denominate *seeing*. Thus, light falling upon the body of a horse, is reflected back upon the eye of a beholder; and, by the peculiar organization of the visual organ, is collected, in the interior of the eye, into so small a focus, as to represent clearly and distinctly an exceedingly minute picture of the figure and dimensions of the animal: this impression of light is a powerful stimulus to that portion of the retina on which it falls, and, through the means of the nerve that connects the retina with the brain, a communication* is made to this organ, by which it is informed of the figure, dimensions, &c. of this picture upon the retina; and a proper conception of the object producing it, is instantly formed by the powers of mind.

The perception of colours is not quite so simple in its explanation; and, in order to lead the reader to a proper comprehension of this part of the physiology of the eye, it will be first necessary to give an analysis of light.

Light is an highly elastic fluid, emanating from the sun and from ignited bodies. The velocity with which it travels from the former, is at the rate of 200,000 miles in every second of time; so that it reaches the earth in about eight minutes and a quarter. When it strikes upon the surface of a body (except there be something in the quality of such body which prevents it, as will be presently noticed,) it rebounds as a ball when thrown against a wall; and, entering the eye, forms there a representation of every point of the objects from which it has recoiled: this process is called,—the reflection of light. A stream of light, is called,—a ray; be its minuteness or magnitude what it may: and, though it should be transmitted through the smallest aperture which can possibly be made, possesses the same qualities, and the same constituent principles, as a ray of the largest dimensions. The rays of light thus constituted, are called white rays, because of the idea which they excite in the mind of such colour: but it is found, that the white ray is only a compound of several others, which can be separated, and exhibited distinctly from each other, by means of a glass

* This is a figurative expression, conveying so clearly what is meant, that we must solicit the indulgence of using it. The terms "picture," "impression," &c. should be understood in the same manner. It is difficult to convey correct notions of physical philosophy, unless those figures that are commonly and familiarly used in our language, be adopted; and if a caution be given, not to accept them in their *literal* sense, no errors can ensue from their use.

triangular instrument, called a *prism*; for, by causing a ray of light to fall upon the prism, the several parts composing this mixed ray separate themselves, and exhibit six rays of dissimilar colours, viz.—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet; these are called *prismatic rays*, because they are developed by the qualities of the prism:—of these rays, three are called *primary*, (or *original*,) as the red, yellow, and blue; whereas the orange ray, the green ray, and the violet ray, are composed of two of the primary rays.

ILLUSTRATION:

<i>Primary Rays.</i>		<i>Compound Rays.</i>	
Red		Orange	
Yellow		Violet	
Blue		Green	
Compound Rays.		Orange composed of { Red Yellow }	Primary Rays.
		Violet composed of { Red Blue }	
		Green composed of { Yellow Blue }	

Thus it is seen, that the orange ray is compounded of the red and the yellow rays; the violet ray is compounded of the red and blue rays; and the green ray is compounded of the yellow and of the blue rays.

It was before stated, in general terms, that light was reflected from the surface of those bodies upon which it fell; but it is now to be particularly noticed, that different substances possess an aptitude to reflect certain rays only, and do not produce that effect with regard to all the rays. It is these different qualities, in the powers of reflection of bodies, which afford to the eye the pleasing effect of diversity of hues, and which gives to each and to every substance the appearance which we denominate colour; for, at the same time that the eye is impressed by the geometrical proportions of the figure formed by the rays of light impinging on it from the surface of an object, it receives another and a peculiar stimulus from the quality of the particular ray or rays that receives from such object the reflective impulse, which peculiar stimulus produces in the mind the idea of colour: thus, light falling upon the leaves of the book that the reader, at this moment, surveys, is reflected to his eye in the shape and figure of the surface whence it proceeds, and a corresponding perception arises of their form and proportion; at the same time, the paper having qualities for reflecting *all* the rays of light (and the union of these producing a *white* ray), the eye, obedient to that stimulus afforded by the white ray, and by the white ray only, conveys to the brain the peculiar impression; and the idea of whiteness is instantly formed, and thus shape and colour are at once recognized. But, whilst some substances are found to reflect all the rays of light, others are capable of reflecting only a single one. Thus, light falling upon the substance called *vermilion*, has only one ray, the red, reflected from it; all the rest pass into the body itself, and are smothered in its substance: the red ray only, therefore,

reaching the eye, the object must appear red, and cannot assume any other colour; and hence it has derived its appellation. The sub-sulphate of quicksilver (or turpeth mineral, as it is called), reflects only the yellow ray, and therefore we say its colour is yellow. Sulphate of copper reflecting only the blue ray, must necessarily excite the idea of this colour, and we consequently call it "*blue stone*." These three are examples of substances reflecting a primary or single ray, and all bodies possessing one or the other of these colours, owe it to a similar property. Examples of the reflection of compound rays may be thus enumerated: Gamboge reflects both the red and the yellow rays, the combination of the two forming an orange ray, hence gamboge is said to be of an orange colour. Copperas reflects the yellow ray and the blue: a green ray results from the union of the two. A flower much admired for its fragrance, reflects the red ray and the blue ray, and the plant is called by the name applied to the colour resulting from the combination—the violet. It was formerly hinted that there exists certain bodies that do not possess the qualities necessary to the reflection of light; these bodies are denominated *black*, which means darkness, or an absence of light. From these substances no reflection takes place, the light that falls upon them being absorbed; and though the eye be turned towards them, no image can be produced in the mind, because there are no rays of light transmitted from them to stimulate the eye; and in truth, therefore, when directing the eye upon them, we, in reality, see nothing, for there is a total absence of that stimulus to the eye which excites the sense of vision: thus, at this instant, there is in the eye of the reader an absence of light on those points of the reflected picture of the surface of the leaf, which correspond to the delineated figures of the black pigment, forming the printed letters, so that, in reality, he does not (for it is not possible he should) see these letters; he is only sensible of the darkness, and, in consequence of the surrounding light, is enabled to ascribe to this darkness appropriate geometrical construction. Having thus attempted to give familiar illustrations of so much of the subject which it was necessary to premise, in order that Dr. Nicholl's theory might be understood with more facility, we shall next proceed with the Doctor's paper.—(*To be continued.*)

QUININE.—This preparation supports its reputation, and is getting into more general use. M. J. Voretton, of Grenoble, employs the following method in obtaining it; by which, he says, he is enabled to procure about two ounces and a half of quinine from eleven pounds of Peruvian bark, instead of an ounce and a half, or an ounce and three-quarters, procured by the common process. The cinchona, reduced to a coarse powder, is to be digested in water, acidulated with about one-hundredth of its weight of muriatic acid. At the expiration of twenty-four hours, the cinchona is to be strongly pressed, to be again treated with dilute muriatic acid, and the processes are to be repeated till the cinchona loses its bitterness. The filtered solutions are to be mixed, and treated with excess of pure magnesia; the mixture to be boiled for a short time, and then suffered to cool. The magnesian precipitate is to be washed with cold

water, dried, and digested in alcohol ; by distilling this solution the quinine is deposited.

BLACK AND GREEN TEA.—Mr. Brande has lately made a comparative analysis of black and green tea, from which he finds that “the quantity of astringent matter, precipitable by gelatine, is somewhat greater in green than in black tea, though the excess is by no means so great as the comparative flavours of the two would lead one to expect. It also appears that the entire quantity of soluble matter is greater in green than in black tea, and that the proportion of extractive matter, not precipitable by gelatine, is greater in the latter.” This accounts for the greater degree of roughness of green over that of black, as this principle is owing to an astringent matter contained in tea, denominated tannin. Jelly, obtained by boiling certain animal substances, particularly skin, in water, when added to a solution of tannin, forms a particular combination with it, by which it is separated from the fluid in which it was dissolved ; and would, therefore, spoil the finest pot of tea we could make, a serious experiment, by the bye, to many of our domestic “quid nuncs,” who retail their scandal in the same proportion as they measure their tea, and who drink a quantity of this beverage in proportion to its goodness. Oil of vitriol, spirit of salt, vinegar, &c. separate the tannin from an infusion of tea ; subacetate of lead, or cerusse, as it is called, mixed with an infusion of tea, separates a bulky buff-coloured matter, leaving the remaining fluid entirely tasteless and colourless.

Mr. Brande’s experiments upon the respective quantities of matter of tea capable of being dissolved in water, and the proportion of inert woody fibre which communicates no virtues at all to boiling water, may be shewn by the following table :

100 Grains of Green Hyson.	Number of grains soluble in water.	Number of grains of inert woody fibre.
14s. per lb.	41	56
12s. ditto	34	57
10s. ditto	36	57
8s. ditto	36	58
7s. ditto	36	59
12s. black Souchong. .	35	64
10s.	34	63
7s.	36	64
6s.	35	65

PRUSSIC ACID.—An excellent paper, detailing experiments with this substance, has been published in a contemporary journal, by that excellent surgeon, Mr. Anthony Todd Thompson. He has, for the first time, employed this powerful medicine as a *local* application ; and the cases which he details, proves the value of it, when used in this manner, for the cure of certain cutaneous affections, accompanied with great itching and irritability. He says, that having

been convinced by numerous experiments on quadrupeds, and also from closely watching its effects on the human body when taken into the stomach, that prussic acid is a direct sedative, and diminishes more suddenly and effectually than any other sedative the sensibility of nerves; he was induced to investigate its powers as a local application, and his success in the practice has well rewarded the labours of the pursuit. The disease made choice of by Mr. Thompson, for the external application of the remedy, was an inflammatory eruption on the left leg of a stout, and otherwise healthy, man, which consisted of minute pustules, surrounded by a red, glazed base; and where they were unbroken, the pustules were filled with a yellowish fluid. In many places along the shin, where the bone is covered by little more than skin, the surface was excoriated, and the intermediate parts red, shining, and perforated with minute pores, from which a thin ichorous discharge poured out; while other parts of the surface were covered with thin, yellowish flaky scales, turning up at the edges, and oozing out from beneath them the same ichorous discharge that was supplied by the broken pustules. The patient complained of the most intolerable itching and tingling of the limb, which completely destroyed his rest at night, and obliged him to rub and scratch the diseased part, although he was well aware, that by doing so, he only increased the evil: he had tried a great variety of ointments, which had only aggravated the tingling and itching, and had taken a considerable quantity of purgative medicines. In this troublesome affection, the discharge which exudes from under the flaky crusts that characterise the eruption, is thin, and so extremely acrid, that it excoriates even the surrounding healthy skin, wherever it touches it, and thus spreads the disease to unaffected parts. The itching and tingling in the limb is almost insupportable, particularly at night, when the patient is warm in bed, and little benefit is derived from the employment of any of the ointments or lotions commonly prescribed, or even from the internal exhibition of the largest doses of opium: indeed, the abraded surface frequently becomes so morbidly sensible, that the mildest applications cannot be borne. In this case, the torments of those afflicted with this disease are most lamentable; and hitherto the sympathy of the medical attendant has been the only consolation he could offer to his patient. Reflection on the causes of this extreme irritability of the surface under this cutaneous disease, led Mr. Thompson to conclude that prussic acid would have the effect of moderating the susceptibility of the diseased surface, from which the discharge would consequently become milder; and he expected, that should the remedy have the effect of diminishing the excitement of the cutaneous vessels, by which this discharge is supplied, the exudation would be greatly diminished in quantity, and rendered considerably less acrimonious. These anticipations, he observes, were verified in the first case on which he tried the experiment. Mr. Thompson did not, however, succeed equally to his wishes in his first attempts at relieving this disorder by means of the prussic acid, in consequence of the internal remedy, which he administered, being incapable of correcting that disordered state of

the constitution that most probably is the cause of the local affection: this was no other than the prussic acid itself, which, he was in hopes, when exhibited internally, would subdue the morbid irritability of the system, and restore the functions of the various organs to a healthy state. His disappointment, however, in these views, led him to investigate how far the digestive organs were implicated in this disease; and he then discovered, that in most of the cases which fell under his observation, there was a superabundant acidity of the stomach, the motions were slimy and irregular, and denoted a deficiency of bile in the bowels, and he further observed, that a chilly fit, succeeded by heat, constituting a paroxysm of fever, made its attack every evening. Being in possession of these facts, he concluded it would be more proper to begin the cure by altering the action of the liver, which was effected by giving the patient a mercurial preparation, in such doses as would enable it, also, in combination with an active purgative, to stimulate the orifices of the ducts of the liver, and thus increase the supply of bile to the bowel in which they terminate: at the same time, he thought it would be right to neutralize the acid in the stomach, by exhibiting an alkali in large doses; the alkali, at the same time, improving the secretion of the stomach, by diminishing the irritability of that organ. And, at the same time, he began his attempts to moderate the local irritation by the external application of the prussic acid.

The plan of treatment adopted by Mr. Thompson, in the case of a patient at Pimlico, detailed in his paper, will furnish sufficient evidence of the manner in which these indications were fulfilled; it was the following:

Take of Pills of Quicksilver,

Compound Pills of Calomel, of each half a drachm;

Extract of Colocynth, one drachm and a half;

Beat them together, and divide the mass into 30 pills; of which one is to be taken in the morning and two in the evening every day.

Take of Extract of Sarsaparilla, 4 drachms;

Subcarbonate of Soda, 1 ounce;

Infusion of Bark, 12 ounces.—Mix.

A wine-glassful to be taken three times a day.

The external application was the following:

Take of Prussic Acid, 4 drachms;

Spirit of Wine, 1 ounce;

Distilled Water, 10 ounces and a half.—Mix.

And keep the whole of the part affected constantly moist by means of soft rags soaked in this lotion.

The patient is desired to live on a light animal diet, avoiding sweet articles, raw and crude vegetable matters, spirits and malt liquor.

PRICE'S EPITOME of PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY.

—This is the title of a little work just published by Dr. Price, which contains a great deal of information in a condensed space. It is a well-known fact, that persons practising the healing art, should not only have a knowledge of the nature of diseases, and of the remedies adapted for their cure, but should also be well acquainted with the

changes effected in the qualities and properties of medicinal articles by their chemical influence upon one another, when two, or more of them, are combined in the same prescription. There are a great variety of medicines in the apothecary's shop, that cannot be mixed without instantly suffering a change, that completely alters their nature, and either takes from them, almost entirely, their medicinal properties, or gives them new ones very foreign to the original. It becomes then an inevitable consequence, that no person is qualified to practise medicine, who is unacquainted with the laws of chemistry that determine these changes; a knowledge of this science, therefore, is the necessary qualification to fit a medical man for the duties of his profession; so that he may judiciously *blend* the remedies which Providence has sent for the relief of suffering humanity, instead of defeating even his *own wishes and intentions by improper combinations*, which he had neither the foresight to anticipate nor the talent to appreciate. For, as the author, in his preface, very correctly observes, "Medicine is a two-edged sword, which, if used at random, returns upon the head of the unwary; it is a blessing when ministered by the hand of science, but it is a direful curse when dispensed by the designing or the ignorant." The little work before us presents itself as a monitor, by whose assistance, errors, such as we have been describing, may be avoided, and it admonishes while it instructs. It exhibits, in alphabetical arrangement, the articles of the London Pharmacopœia in one column, whilst, in an opposite one, are the names of those substances which it ought not to be combined with in one potion; we shall here give some examples:

Salt of Hartshorn,

Magnesia,
 Cream of Tartar,
 Epsom Salts,
 Calomel.

By the above is meant, that neither magnesia, nor cream of tartar, nor Epsom salts, nor calomel, should be mixed with salt of hartshorn, or be administered with it.

Infusion of Senna,
 Extract of Goulard,
 Magnesia,

Emetic Tartar.
 Undistilled Water.
 Cream of Tartar,
 Soluble Tartar,
 Acids and Alkalies.

Epsom Salts,

Salt of Tartar,
 Prepared Natron,
 Lime Water,
 Spirit of Hartshorn.
 Corrosive Sublimate.

Milk of Almonds,
 Nitre,

Alum,
 Epsom Salts,
 Spirit of Vitriol,
 White Vitriol,
 Salt of Steel,
 Glauber's Salts.

Cream of Tartar,	Magnesia, Salt of Hartshorn, Almond Milk, Diuretic Salt, Salt of Tartar, Prepared Natron, Soluble Tartar, Golden Sulphur of Antimony.
Soluble Tartar,	Magnesia, Glauber's Salts, Epsom Salts, Cream of Tartar, Tamarinds.
Salt of Tartar,	Acids, Cream of Tartar, Mindererus' Spirit, Epsom Salt, Calomel, Emetic Tartar, Salt of Steel.
Glauber's Salts,	The same as Epsom Salts, with the exception of Spirit of Hartshorn.
Sweet Spirit of Nitre, Tamarinds,	Tincture of Guaiacum. Soluble Tartar, Jalap, Scammony, Gamboge, Infusion of Senna.

The foregoing examples will be sufficient to inform the reader of the nature of this valuable little book. The author professes no originality, but has been at the pains of arranging so condensed a compilation of his materials, as to present them to his readers in an infinitely smaller space (and we may add more perfectly too) than is to be found in any other production, and any particular information sought for may be obtained in an instant. We believe there is no practical medical man to whom it will not prove useful; the best informed, except gifted with unusual powers of memory, will sometimes be in doubt, and must seek a remembrancer, whilst those not well versed in chemistry (and who are by far the greater number) will find it as useful a friend as Mentor to Telemachus.

WENS.—SIR,—Should the following statement of cases that fell under my eye be worthy your attention, I shall be happy in having communicated them for your most invaluable work, the *Gazette of Health* :

Ann Cooper, a servant of mine, had a wen fixed on the top of her nose; it continued to increase between two and three years, and so rapidly during the last six months of that time, that one eye was very nearly closed, and the other not much less. She applied to several medical men in this neighbourhood, who told her *nothing but the knife* could remove it. In great terror at the idea of an operation, she consulted two physicians, who also asserted the same. Some

months after, she heard of a poor old woman at Lowestoft, who had extracted a great number for her poor neighbours, by the following simple process:—She takes some lime, quite fresh from the kiln, pounds it, and sifts it through fine muslin; then, as much white of egg as is requisite to make it into the consistency of a thick salve, which she spreads upon leather and puts some sticking-plaister round the edges to keep it fast. This plaister took about a tea-spoonful of lime; it remained on three or four days, when seeing it was becoming loose all round, she lifted it very carefully, and in taking it off drew out the wen with it, which resembled a bulbous root with a great cluster of fibres. When she saw a particle of the root broken, she carefully took it out with a fine needle, and then laid on a plaister of clay salve; it was perfectly well in a few weeks, and has remained so ever since, now about three years.

About two years since, at a gentleman's house in Norfolk, I saw his son, with a wen, precisely in the same situation, about the size of a walnut; it occasioned great pain: and Dr. Bigby, of Norwich, and the other Physician who attended him, I think, Martineau, assured him nothing could be done but by the knife, and *that* they would not recommend because it was so close to the eye; it would, they observed, be a most dangerous experiment. In this hopeless case, I ventured to recommend him to come to the *poor old woman*, who, by the same means, cured it in a few weeks; and he has had no return. This was not like the other; it broke and discharged profusely. She said, she had as often cured those which she called the soft or blood wen, as the other kind. After it broke, she dressed it twice a day with cerate or clay-salve; and, when proud-flesh appeared, treated it in the usual way. Another wen she extracted from the face of a poor man, was about the size of a hen's egg. These persons told me the plaister occasioned very slight uneasiness. The great man, now in London, of whose unparalleled success in extirpating cancers, by means of a plaister which draws them up by the roots, we hear so much, uses, I much suspect, some such simple application. A lady from this neighbourhood has been with him, and he extracted a large cancer knot from her breast.

I remain, Sir, your humble Servant,

_____, Suffolk, 12th February.

HUNTERIAN ORATION.—The annual Hunterian Oration was delivered on *Valentine's* day last, at the College of Surgeons, in Lincoln's Inn Fields, by Sir Everard Home, Bart.

The Mace, the new badge of the college, the emblem of a recent charter, being laid on the table, the learned Orator and the Master entered the theatre in their *scarlet* robes of office; and the Orator commenced his oration in the presence of 300 members.

He first apprized the members (for they have nothing to do with the management of the establishment) that his Majesty had been graciously pleased to grant to the college a new charter, in which they were to have a President, Vice-president, and the members were to be denominated Fellows.

The learned Gentleman then began a most able discourse, *truly surgical*; viz. on *tom-tits, sparrows, and venison*! He gave a long

disquisition on the circumstance of a sparrow seeing a sprig of wheat in a pond, and endeavouring to get it out; but in these several attempts fell down on its back on the side of the bank!! The sparrow, however, ultimately succeeded in getting the sprig of wheat out of the pond, and then began to eat it! The learned Orator likewise stated, that this country was famed for fine venison, and that the late Sir Joseph Banks was very fond of play when he was nine years of age! and assured his audience, that in Captain Cook's Voyages, four Indians seized upon four English sailors, placed them on their backs, tied them fast, and carried them up the country; but the sailors, in their turn, overpowered the Indians, extricated themselves, and carried the Indians back on *their* backs!

I forgot, when speaking on the subject of venison, to mention another important subject, which occupied no small portion of the Orator's discourse. A buck ran after a doe, the Orator stated, and being obstructed in his course by his keeper, flew at his keeper, and beat him with great violence!!!—(Venison and birds were then probably on the spit at the Freemason's, for the Orator's banquet; and the thoughts of things we love most dearly is always uppermost.)

At the conclusion of this learned and elaborate discourse, which lasted upwards of an hour, a member, whose name we do not know, rose, and said, "I have been a member of the College of Surgeons for thirty years, and never was so insulted with *such stuff* before, and trust I never shall again." Sir William Blizard (in a low tone of voice) "If you have any thing to say, Sir, you had better retire into the adjoining room." Member—"I have delivered my sentiments, Sir, and I have nothing further to say on the subject."

The learned Orator, and the rest of the conductors of the establishment (twenty-one in number) and a few of their select friends, then retired to the Free Mason's Tavern, where a most sumptuous dinner was prepared for them, at the expense of the college funds, with the most choice vintage this country could afford.

Those who wish for any further account of these Orations, are advised to peruse a ludicrous work lately published, entitled "A Rehearsal of an Hunterian Oration to a Committee of Undertakers. By William Woeful, of Fleet Market, with the Curate of Blackfriars at his Elbow!"

PYROLIGNOUS ACID.—A subscriber in Dublin states, that he has made use of the pure pyrolignous acid, "in a variety of ways, on fresh fishes, in order to ascertain if it really possesses the power of preserving them as effectually as it does the flesh of pigs," &c.; and that "the results did not accord with the favourable reports we have made of its antiseptic powers; the fish becoming putrid during the usual process of drying them, or on being exposed to solar heat about fourteen or twenty hours." In a former number we have stated, that we employed the dilute *impure* pyrolignous acid, and that we attributed its effect more to the combined powers of the petroleum it contains and the acid; and that the former, which the pure acid does not contain, is a more powerful preservative of meat than the pure acid, even in a concentrated state. Although the *impure* acid is capable of preserving meat, and, indeed, of retro-

grading the putrid process when applied a few hours after its commencement, the meat will not be pleasant to the palate, nor agreeable to the stomach, if salt be not also employed. With salt a considerable less quantity is requisite. The acid of the meat, when boiled, is not perceptible to the taste; and the smoky flavour of the petroleum is more pleasant than it received during the usual process of smoking; viz.—exposure to the smoke of wood. The great advantage to the impure pyrolignous acid, is, that meat, in which putridity has commenced, is rendered sweet and wholesome by it, and with the addition of salt may be preserved many years; and which, without the acid, could not be preserved by salt, even combined with nitre. By the use of this acid, the flesh of pigs may be preserved during the hottest days of summer, so as to make bacon, and the exposure of hams to the smoke of burning wood rendered unnecessary. To illustrate this assertion, we shall give an experiment we made upwards of two years ago:—We obtained at the shop of a butcher, during a very warm day, a leg of pork, in which putrefaction had commenced. To our question, If he could preserve it, so as to be fit for eating, by salting or any other means, he emphatically replied, “Certainly not.” We ordered it to be washed with the impure pyrolignous acid, and afterwards some salt to be sprinkled over it. The acid was regularly applied every morning for three days, by means of a brush, (termed the painters’ brush,) and after each application the sprinkling with salt was repeated. It was afterwards salted with nitre, &c. in the usual way. The leg, after being hung in a warm kitchen for twelve months, was perfectly sweet, and was pronounced, by some epicures, to have been beautifully cured. If our Dublin correspondent will give the *impure* dilute acid a trial on fish, he will find the results to correspond with our reports. The *impure* acid may be obtained at the rate of 1s. 6d. a gallon in London. A correspondent says that it is sold by makers of charcoal in South Wales, at the rate of 6d. a pound. The *pure* pyrolignous acid does not differ in its chemical qualities, or, indeed, in other respects, from the acetic acid; and, diluted with water, it is now generally sold under the name of distilled vinegar.

RINGWORM.—(*Continued from p. 56.*)—“It is still less probable that the removal of the hair, however barbarous the means by which it is effected, should be followed by baldness; or, after a few weeks has elapsed, that the new hair should not obtain the strength of the original; since, as we have already remarked, the *organic structure producing the hair* is neither drawn out with it, or sustains any mischief by the violence employed. As well might we expect that long protracted sores, on the extremities of the toes or fingers, producing the death of the nail, and its final separation, should prevent a reproduction of such nail; but we well know that a most extensive suppuration, if not an actual sloughing of the gland, is necessary, to prevent portions of new nail appearing after the sore has healed.

“To put a stop to the secretion of the nail, or the secretion of the hair, it is necessary that the organ of such secretion should be de-

stroyed: and, when in ringworm of the scalp, except, as I have already stated, where ulceration has extended to the pericranium, can the adipose structure described be said to have been destroyed? It cannot happen from drawing out the hair; it cannot happen as the consequence of the disease merely; it cannot occur without the production of extensive ulceration; and such ulceration is liable to follow the disease in bad habits of body, and where no attention has been paid to it: but the separation of the hair simply, can never destroy its secreting structure. In what manner, therefore, can this step be productive of so much mischief to the scalp as has been represented?

“With due deference to the author in question, I should answer this interrogatory, by asserting that the disease itself *may*, under mismanagement and neglect, become a means (by subsequent ulceration) of inflicting a permanent and irreparable injury to the scalp; but that the forcibly drawing out of *every* hair, sound or unsound, is not adequate to the production of any effect on the part, beyond a temporary privation of this necessary covering.

“It may be observed, that I am at once assuming that the nature of the mischief, which the scalp is said to sustain from depilatories, must be such as relates to the future growth of the hair. Such, it is presumed, must have been the meaning of Dr. Willan, in the sentence quoted; since it is difficult to conceive, that extraction of the hair, or the use of any application tending to hasten its separation, could produce what may be considered a permanently prejudicial effect in any other way.

“It is not the principle of removal, by extraction, of the hair on the diseased parts, that admits of question, as to its correctness and propriety, but the means by which such principle has been hitherto usually carried into effect. The imagination shrinks with horror at the idea of forcibly tearing off the pitch cap; alike dragging with it the sound and unsound hair, and the scabby secretions of the tender and irritated surface from its attachments, and inflicting as much pain as the most resolute of dispositions can scarcely support.

“From all these inconveniences, the use of a pair of forceps is perfectly free. They are applied only where the disease exists, and to hair already loosened; the slightest degree of force is sufficient to remove such hair, where force is at all necessary, and no pain will be found to attend it.

“There is a considerable period usually elapses, after the check to the regular secretion of the hair commences, and its entire separation; during such time, the hair should be considered as exciting that degree of irritation, to which I have attached so much importance in keeping up the disease. The cessation of secretion of the hair and its dropping off, cannot be the work of the same moment; it must remain sticking in the part sometime. Let it not be said, therefore, that no necessity exists, under these circumstances, for its removal, or that the irritation it excites is too slight to require notice; for there is no reason to doubt that the hair, in causing the pustules of the *P. Scutulata*, produces the same series of effects, on a minuter scale, which take place where irritation and a suppura-

tive state of parts arise from the presence of the nail on the fingers or toes. Whether separated from the parts whence it originates, or attached, at its root, to these parts, such influence will still continue to be evinced so long as the nail remains.

"It will be observed, that the treatment I have described in the preceding pages, as applicable to the state of simple ring-worm, requires some modification in those long established cases, where great accumulation of scabs, portions of ulcerated surface, and a high degree of confirmed irritation of the vessels of the part exist. In a case of this kind, the subject of the plate, No. 1, and in several others of a similar description, the difficulties of subduing the excessive irritation of the disease, were for a considerable period considered insurmountable. Fomentations, poultices, and cold lotions, were successively and diligently applied, each for a sufficient length of time, to have produced, under common circumstances, an effectual check to inflammatory action. Still the redness and heat of the part remained obstinate; and where a few straggling hairs were seen, a constant production of new pustules were discovered, as fast as others were removed. A total extirpation of the remaining hair over the whole surface was eventually accomplished, the ulcerated portions healed, and the fluid secretion diminished; the inflammatory redness and heat of the part continued, however; and around the healthy margin, new pustules and scabs affecting the sound hair, were every day appearing.

"The preceding applications, with others of various descriptions, were changed one for another without success, till a small spot, whence the hair had been first removed, was occupied by fresh, and immediately after pustules appeared among it. It appeared now, that any further attempts to get rid of the disease would be frustrated by the increased irritation of the new hair, which might be speedily expected to spring up over the greater part of the surface; but, except on the spot I have mentioned, no more hair appeared: and I was led, shortly after, to endeavour to apply pressure by means of adhesive straps and bandages, with the cold lotion in conjunction. By the diligent application of these for two or three weeks, a material change was produced; and the scalp began to assume an appearance more nearly approaching to health. To completely subdue the diseased action was a work of much time; but I had the satisfaction of seeing, eventually, (as I have already stated in a previous allusion to this case) the part completely covered with long and glossy hair.

"In other cases of a similar character, of four and six years standing, I have experienced proportionately smaller degrees of obstinacy; but, in no single case has the plan last mentioned, pressure and cold applications combined, failed in subduing the disease. In the majority of these cases, the necessity of the extraction of the hair was frequently forced on my attention, by the obstinate repetition of pustules, where any appeared on the diseased surface; and I have, consequently, made this a preliminary step in every subsequent case to the above plan of treatment.

In the course of my observation of some of the cases to which I have alluded, I was led to imagine, that the insertion of a seton in

the neck, where the discharge and excitement was very considerable, would be likely to expedite the cure, and this on a very obvious principle; and I subsequently found, in consulting a very old author on the subject, that it had been recommended with a considerable degree of confidence. In two instances in which it was made use of, however, and where the violence of the irritation and excessive discharge seemed to justify the experiment, no benefit appeared to be derived. One of these occurred in a child, who had been a long time the subject of severe entropium; and the two diseases together, by their ceaseless irritation and pain, may be supposed to have formed a more complicated case of human misery, than often falls to our lot to observe. It is a curious fact in the history of this latter case—that as soon as the disease of the scalp was completely removed, the inflammation and pain, from the mischief in the eyelids, almost entirely subsided.

“The foregoing description of the local treatment of the disease, comprehends every thing on which I am enabled, from experience, to speak with decision. In condemning the use of greasy applications of any kind, which have not the power of destroying the infectious properties of the contents of the pustules, I am justified, not only by reasoning *à priori*, but by the evidence of facts; for I have frequently seen the disease spread with greater activity, after such applications, than before they were made use of.

“The necessity of internal remedies in cases of simple ringworm, or that stage of the disease usually seen in the middle and higher classes; where attention to the frequent cleaning of the children's heads is observed, may, with much propriety, be doubted. It is certain, that in such classes, we rarely trace the slightest connection of the disease with constitutional causes; but, under different circumstances, as in cases approaching in similarity to that last alluded to, the occurrence of severe constitutional irritation may be expected, and a feverish state of the system is rarely absent. Constitutional treatment is, of course, then directed to subdue symptoms consequent on the irritation of the disease, and not to correct a state of the system on which it may be supposed to depend.

“The remarks of Mons. Alibert on this particular part of our subject, should be applied to the *Porrigo Favosa*, almost exclusively, though in the article set apart for its consideration, such remarks appear to be directed to the whole of the species of the disease, and tend to fix a constitutional origin to them all. But it is apprehended that a ready concurrence with such an opinion, will not be yielded by the majority of practitioners, who have paid much attention to the disease in England.”

TINCTURE OF POPPIES.—An American physician of eminence, uses a tincture of white poppies as a substitute for laudanum. His method of preparing it is the following:—Take of White Poppy-head, powdered, four ounces; Spirit of Wine, one pint; digest for eight days, and filter. This tincture, he says, answers all the purposes of laudanum, but requires to be given in double the dose. In his own practice he finds it quite as efficacious as foreign opium.

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VOL. VII.

ON THE PECULIAR PROPERTIES OF PURGATIVE MEDICINES.

(Continued from Page 71.)

CASTOR OIL is obtained from the seeds of a plant called *Palma Christi*, which grows in the southern parts of Europe, in Africa, and in the East and West Indies. There are several methods of obtaining this oil:—viz. by simple expression of the seeds;—by expression of the seeds after they have been subjected to the process of torrefaction;—and thirdly, by decoction in water. The former is the method employed in Europe, and the product is denominated, “*Cold Drawn Castor Oil*.” The oil expressed after the seeds have been parched is inferior to the cold drawn, and soon becomes rancid. The West India Castor Oil is obtained by boiling the seeds in water; but of these several methods, the *former* is to be preferred. Genuine castor oil thus prepared is pale and transparent, thick and viscid in consistence, insipid to the taste, or rather sweetish, and quite inodorous. Castor oil is a gentle purgative, and generally more certain in its operation than any other. It is ranked under our first class of purgative medicines, as it appears to act simply by increasing the peristaltic motion of the bowels, by which the contents of the alimentary canal are urged forward; and hence, it seldom produces watery or debilitating motions. It is an excellent purgative for debilitated persons, and in those cases where the patient, from weakness, might be endangered by the operation of a purgative less certain in its effects. It would seem that castor oil acts upon the bowels simply by irritation locally excited, and not through the medium of absorption; for it is found, that the absorbent vessels of the alimentary canal refuse to receive it, and it consequently passes through the intestinal tube *unchanged*. This may, perhaps, account for the certainty with which it produces its cathartic effects; for, as it continues to preserve its identity, so it remains efficient in its quality during the whole course of its progress, and thus acts equally powerful on every part of the inner surface of the bowels. Castor oil is somewhat inclined to leave a laxative tendency, but frequently fails to remove all the solid feces contained in the bowels, particularly if they have been hardened by previous constipation. It is an improper remedy for such persons with whom oily, fat, and butyraceous articles disagree, and who are disposed to fermentation of the contents of the stomach, heart-burn, acrid eructations and gastric acidification. In cases of *erysipelatos* inflammation and of *piles*, it should not be administered. The activity of castor oil is much diminished by its being formed into an emulsion (which is most frequently done) with yolk of egg, or mucilage

and water. To obtain its greatest efficacy, therefore, it should be administered uncombined. In this way it may be taken whilst floating on a little peppermint water, or mixed with milk, or coffee, the latter of which considerably disguises its nature; a small quantity of brandy or rum mixed with it, is said to conceal it from the palate more than any other means. The dose for an adult is from one to two table-spoonsful, and for an infant one or two tea-spoonsful; to the latter it proves the safest and most certain purgative that can be administered. The following formulæ will point out examples of those disorders in which the use of castor oil is necessary and beneficial.

For habitual costiveness:

Take of Castor Oil, 1 (or 2) table-spoonsful;

Tincture of Senna, 1 table-spoonful;

Mix for a draught.

For Cholic:

Take of Castor Oil, 1 ounce and a half;

Half the Yolk of an Egg;

White Sugar, 3 drachms;

Rub them together, and add, gradually,

Tincture of Senna, 6 drachms;

Tincture of Opium, half a drachm;

Cinnamon Water, 3 ounces;

Two table-spoonsful of this mixture to be taken every hour, till the bowels are relieved.

For obstinate costiveness:

Take of Castor Oil, 1 ounce and a half;

Mucilage of Gum Arabic, 1 ounce;

Infusion of Senna, 3 ounces;

Tincture of Jalap, 2 drachms;

Compound Tincture of Senna, half an ounce;

A fourth part of the mixture to be taken every hour.

For calculous complaints:

Take of Castor Oil, 2 ounces;

Solution of Potass, 1 drachm;

Syrup of Poppies, 1 ounce;

Peppermint Water, half a pint;

Mix; and take three table-spoonsful every night and morning.

As an aperient in gonorrhœa, the following:

Take of Castor Oil, 1 ounce and a half;

Gum Arabic, in powder, 3 drachms;

Sweet Spirit of Nitre, half an ounce;

Refined Sugar, 3 drachms;

Water, a quarter of a pint;

A quarter of the mixture to be taken twice a day, and washed down with a wine-glassful of the infusion of *Buchu* leaves.

In dysentery, or flux :

Take of Castor Oil, 1 ounce ;
Powdered Gum Arabic, 2 drachms ;
Refined Sugar, 1 drachm ;
Laudanum, 40 drops ;
Mint Water, 2 ounces ;

Mix, and take a table-spoonful every hour.

The above formula is recommended by that experienced Physician, Dr. Chapman, of Philadelphia, who advises the same mixture in the bilious purging of infants, substituting lime water for mint water.

It is said, that a spurious castor oil is vended, which is nothing more than some expressed vegetable oil and *scammony* ; the mischievous consequence of such a fraud will be rendered apparent when we come to the consideration of the latter drug.

The skin which envelopes the kernel from which the castor oil is expressed, is a drastic purgative and emetic. One or two of the seeds swallowed whole, soon operate copiously both by vomit and purge, occasioning much pain and griping. But neither the husk or seeds are now used in medicine, their effects being too violent and dangerous.

JALAP.—This is the root of a shrub growing in Mexico, with a blackish wrinkled bark, but internally of a dark-grey colour. It is sent to this country in thin transverse slices, which have a nauseous smell ; occasioning a sensation of heat in the throat, and producing a considerable discharge of saliva, if chewed. The powdered root is of a yellowish-grey colour. It is one of the powerful purgatives, acting upon the whole alimentary canal, which it thoroughly cleanses, particularly the colon. It is in general a safe and efficacious purgative, *not often* producing griping or sickness. In hot bilious disorders, and *hypochondriacal* affections, it is said to gripe violently, *without purging*. It is one of those substances, that, prepared by different methods, produce both extraordinary and unexpected results. The aqueous extract, which is jalap dissolved in water, and evaporated to a proper consistence, purges pretty *certainly*, but *very weakly*, and is at the same time considerably diuretic. That portion of the jalap not dissolved by the water in preparing the above extract produces most violent gripings. The pure resin of jalap, which is that portion of the root capable only of being dissolved by alcohol, occasions griping, and many other distressing sensations, *without purging in the least* ; but if it be made into an emulsion, by being triturated with sugar, or with almonds, or if it be dissolved in spirit, and mixed with syrup, it then operates tolerably easy and copiously. It is curious, that the part of the jalap which remains, after the pure resin has been dissolved by alcohol, yields to water an extract, which, it is said, does not possess any cathartic qualities, but is a powerful diuretic. Thus it is seen that jalap possesses the constituent principles, which excite in the human body both a purgative and diuretic effect. Its use, however, deranges the stomach, injures digestion, and debilitates the constitution. If given alone, it may be exhibited to the quantity of thirty or forty grains to an adult ; but it is usual to combine it with

other purgatives, as infusion of senna, or neutral salts: the latter corrects any tendency it may have to gripe, and for this purpose the salt called *soluble tartar*, proves extremely effective, which it does, most probably, by rendering the resinous particles of the jalap more soluble in the juices of the stomach and bowels, and thereby diminishing its irritation. With cream of tartar also it acts with considerable less harshness, and in a much diminished dose. Thus, ten grains of jalap, with a drachm of cream of tartar, will be sufficient for most persons; or fifteen grains of jalap, with five or six grains of ipecacuan, made into pills. The best mode of exhibiting jalap is in powder, and the finer it is reduced the more active it is found to be; so that its efficacy is increased by simple trituration. To conceal its nauseous flavour, it should be taken in coffee. The following are approved modes of administering this medicine:—

As a common and simple purgative:

Take of powdered Jalap, 25 grains;

Powdered Ginger, 2 grains.

Mix for a dose, to be taken in a cup of coffee.

Or,

Take of powdered Jalap, 1 scruple;

Compound Tincture of Senna, 2 drachms;

Mint Water, an ounce.

Mix for a draught.

Or,

Take of Jalap, in powder, 16 grains;

Calomel,

Powdered Ginger, of each 4 grains.

Mix for a powder, to be taken in honey or jelly.

Or,

Take of Jalap, in powder, 10 grains;

Rhubarb, in powder, 8 grains;

Ipecacuan, powdered, 5 grains.

Make it into 4 or 5 pills, with a little water, to be taken at bed-time.

In dropsies, the following:

Take of Jalap, in powder, 1 scruple;

Calomel, 4 grains;

Oil of Juniper, 3 drops.

Mix for a dose.

Or,

Take of powdered Jalap, 1 scruple;

Cream of Tartar, 2 scruples;

Cayenne Pepper, half a grain.

To be taken in the morning.

In bilious disorders it may be advantageously administered in combination with equal parts of calomel; as, for instance,

Take of Jalap, 10 grains;

Calomel, 10 grains.

Mix for a powder.

Or,

Take of Jalap, in powder, 15 grains;
Rhubarb, in powder, 10 grains;
Magnesia, half a drachm;
Ginger, in powder, 2 grains.

Mix for a powder.

If attended with considerable costiveness, the following pills may be advised:

Take of Extract of Jalap, half a drachm;
Compound Extract of Colocynth, 2 scruples;
Soap, half a drachm.

Divide into 24 pills, of which 4 may be taken occasionally.

Jalap is a good purgative for children, as it removes that viscid mucous secretion, which is so generally found to cover the membrane of the intestinal canal; and, in combination with scammony and calomel, operates as a most effective vermifuge. As a specimen of such a combination, the basilic powder presents the most useful example. It operates upon the whole course of the alimentary canal, and dislodges both the worms, and the slimy nidus in which they lodge themselves.—(*To be continued.*)

PRUSSIAN OF MERCURY.—It has been remarked that the exhibition of the hydrocyanic (prussic) acid, is often followed by many unpleasant effects. Amongst these, Mr. Scott observes, the occurrence of swellings of the face to a prodigious extent, and of a troublesome eruption over the whole surface of the body, which by its intolerable itching annoys the patient exceedingly. These two effects, as well as salivation and ulceration of the mouth, Mr. Scott attributes to the presence of prussiate of mercury in the hydrocyanic acid; and he recommends the following simple and easy test for ascertaining whether the acid contains prussiate of mercury, to be tried in every instance, before a fresh quantity, whose exact qualities have not been determined, be administered:—A few drops of the prussic acid is to be put upon a plate, and near to it (so close as to come into contact without positively mixing) the same quantity of diluted sulphuric acid. A gold ring is to be laid upon the two fluids so as to come in contact with both, and a zinc wire, bent into a crescentic form, is to be brought, one extremity into contact with the ring, and the other with the sulphuric acid; and, as soon as the galvanic circle is thus completed, if prussiate of mercury be contained in the hydrocyanic acid, it undergoes immediate decomposition, and the ring becomes silvered. This test detects the presence of mercury to such a minute degree, that the experiment may be deemed decisive; if the gold ring sustains no change, the prussic acid may be considered as free from mercury.

SYMPTOMS OF DISEASES.—Mr. Highley, medical bookseller of London, has published an alphabetical arrangement of the symptoms of diseases, with their various indications, under the title of “The Medical Practitioner’s Pocket Companion, or, a Key to the Knowledge of Diseases, and the Appearances which denote Recovery or Danger.” The following extract will enable our medical readers to form an opinion of its merits:—

- “Cough, dry, short, and suppressed.---D. *Pleurisy*. (When mucus is spit up from the lungs, at first thin, but gradually puriform and bloody, the inflammation has probably extended to them, constituting *Pleuro-peripneumony*.)
- , short; sometimes with the discharge of a little frothy saliva, or yellow, viscid gluten.---D. *Peripneumony*.
- , almost incessant, with highly distressing pain in the side, and symptoms of debility.---D. *Putrid peripneumony*.
- with difficult expectoration, producing a pain in the head, as if it were bursting, and attended with a wheezing noise.---D. *Peripneumonia notha*.
- with pain in the region of the heart, and fever.---D. *Inflammation of the heart*.
- convulsive, with rapid respirations threatening suffocation, attended with a shrill sound.---D. *Hooping-cough*. (The peculiar hooping sound, in some cases, never occurs through the whole course of the disease; but it is almost constantly observable, that, within two or three minutes after a violent fit of coughing, a slighter will occur.)
- harsh, with a difficult inspiration, sounding as through a harsh tube, without any difficulty in swallowing.---D. *Croup*.
- dry, with occasional spitting up of a flaky substance, and a struggle to discharge something solid from the trachea.---D. *Advanced stage of croup*.
- with expectoration of pus.---D. *Phthisis*.
- of a caseous matter, curdling in water, round the edges of which pus is often observable.---D. *Phthisis* (commonly in an early stage.)
- dry, tickling.---P. *Hæmoptysis*.
- *see also* Expectoration.
- Countenance, *see* Face.
- Cramp, frequent.---P. *Gout*.”

The letter D signifies the diastotic symptom, or such as denote existing disease; and P the prognostic, or such as indicate a threatened disease, or the probable result of a disease. The work is on a novel plan, and to old practitioners, whose memories, through study and application, often fail them, will prove an excellent remembrancer; and to the young one, or student, a valuable guide in practice, &c. To our non-medical readers it may also prove useful, by enabling them to distinguish primary diseases from sympathetic or symptomatic affections.

We advise the author, who is evidently a practitioner of experience, to correct those indications that favour the humoral pathology, a doctrine which has long been discarded by physicians who are acquainted with the chemistry of the human body, &c.: such as “bitterness in the mouth, and diarrhœa, being indications of *alkaline acrimony in the system*.” Some of the indications are not strictly correct; such “as obstinate costiveness, being a symptom of *atonic* gout in the bowels,” and an opposite state, as diarrhœa, being also a symptom of the same affection of the bowels. Obstinate costiveness is a common consequence of atony or debility of the bowels; but

when it occurs, even in a gouty subject, we are not to attribute it to *atonic* gout. As for diarrhoea in a gouty person, it is more to be attributed to *irregular* or *retrocedent* gout, than *atonic* gout; indeed, we are of opinion, that it is never an attendant on, or a symptom of, *atonic* gout. "Great bilious nausea and anxiety" being an indication of "an abscess of the spleen *ready to break*," is rather an unfortunate conclusion. We also recommend the author to omit those symptoms which are attendant on nearly all the diseases that assail human nature. Debility, although either a direct or indirect symptom of almost every disease, is noticed only as a diagnostic of influenza, poison, scurvy, and confluent small-pox.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION, ASTHMA, &c.—Dr. Behr, of Bernbourg, and Dr. Heincken, of Bremen, confirm the reports of Magendie and others, of the beneficial effects of the Prussic acid in spasmodic diseases. Dr. Behr states, that he has administered it in the commencement of pulmonary consumption, asthma, and catarrhal cough, with complete success, and that he employs it daily, without hesitation, in all cases where he had been in the habit of prescribing opium, or extract of henbane. He however observes, that this remedy does not answer, when the stomach is the seat of the disease. Dr. Heincken regards it as an excellent palliative of the most distressing symptoms of pulmonary consumption, and has found it very efficacious in diseases of the heart, and in the whooping-cough. The celebrated Hufeland, Physician to the King of Prussia, prescribes the Prussic acid, prepared according to the method of *Itner*, in the following manner:

Take of Prussic acid, six drops; distilled water, two drachms; mix:—of which he directs fifteen drops to be taken three or four times a day, according to the urgency of the symptoms. He is of opinion, that the mixture will not retain its peculiar medicinal virtues longer than twenty-four hours. (*Gazette de Sante*, No. 3.) The Prussic acid sold in this metropolis differs very much in strength. We have met with some, which was obtained at the shop of a chemist, so weak, that the patient took twenty drops, without experiencing any effect from it. That sold at Apothecaries' Hall is also very weak. The College of Physicians will, no doubt, see the necessity of giving directions for making it (in their new edition of their Pharmacopœia, which, we understand, will soon be sent to their printers) that it may be kept by compounders of medicines of the same strength. We consider it to be our duty to state, that the dose of the Prussic acid prepared at the Medical Hall, in Piccadilly, should not exceed one drop; and we advise our friends to commence with half a drop.

A person, residing at Bath, asserts in his public advertisements, that, on microscopical examination of the matter brought up from the lungs of consumptive subjects, he has discovered animalculæ of the shape of a maggot, to the irritation of which he attributes cough and the progress of the organic affection! By destroying these mischievous animals, by means of inhaling a *particular* gas, he says he has succeeded in restoring patients to health, whose cases were declared to be hopeless. In all purulent discharges, and even

in healthy mucus, animalculæ have been discovered. In cases of pulmonary consumption, the small suppurated tubercles, which are generally very numerous, empty themselves into the minute ramification of the bronchia, through apertures so small, as not to admit of the head of a pin. The cavities being always filled with matter, air cannot possibly pass into them during inhalation; and therefore a factitious air can prove beneficial only, by its action on the membranous lining of the trachea, and of the bronchial ramifications, except perhaps oxygen, which may prove beneficial in conveying carbon from the blood. Dr. Beddoes asserts, that oxygen is attracted by the red particles of the blood, during respiration, and that it communicates to it a stimulating quality. We have ascertained, by numerous experiments, that during the respiration of oxygen, for the space of a quarter of an hour, the heart and arteries beat with less force, and the temperature of the body falls two or three degrees. In cases of irritative cough, or where slight inflammatory action exists in the membranous lining of the wind-pipe, it has evidently a quieting effect.

ASCARIDES.—Mr. John Nield, a navy surgeon, has published what he terms “an obstinate and protracted case of ascarides,” in the cure of which he succeeded by mercurial salivation. Mercury, either in alterative or purgative doses, is, perhaps, the most powerful remedy for the destruction of this species of worm that has been discovered; but the misfortune is, that it will not destroy the disposition of the part to a reproduction of them. We suspect this disposition is only to be counteracted by topical remedies. For this purpose, no application is more likely to succeed than the daily use of the following lavement, for many weeks:—

Take of Lime Water, 12 ounces;

Alcaline Tincture of Iron, 2 drachms.—Mix.

The lime-water readily mixes with the slime, in which the worms are lodged, and the iron acts powerfully on them as a poison, and at the same time invigorates the intestine, and corrects its secretion. If the patient be of a leucophlegmatic habit, or affected with debility of the digestive organs, the Peruvian bark and the carbonate or muriatic tincture of iron should be taken. A German physician recommends the following lavement to be injected once a day for a week:

Take of Infusion of Wormwood, 8 ounces;

Muriate of Quicksilver, 1 grain.—Mix.

A physician of Dublin informs us that he has found great relief from a soft rectum bougie, besmeared with an ointment of the subacetate of copper, and the oil of tar. It is worthy of notice, that when the organic disease of the rectum comes on, termed schitro-contraction, the worms gradually disappear.

HYDROPHOBIA.—In the seventy-second number of the Gazette of Health, we noticed a communication from M. Marochetti; a surgeon of Moscow, to Dr. Muller, of Paris, in which the former stated his discovery of the developement of the hydrophobic poison in the orifices of the ducts of the submaxillary gland under the tongue, occasioning tumours, which contained the virus that com-

municates this dreadful disease to the system at large. The opinions and practice of M. Marochetti have now become the subjects of general report; and, in consequence of the public newspapers having given long paragraphs of this surgeon's observations, to which the writers strongly solicit the attention of the profession and the public, we have had many communications from our subscribers, requesting our opinion upon M. Marochetti's practice. It will be seen, by a reference to page 1145, that, in reporting the communication made through the *Gazette de Santé*, we abstained from all remarks upon the subject, contenting ourselves with barely giving the report, without entering at all into the merits of the question; and, in this respect, our silence was intendedly imposed upon our desire of interference, that we might afford time for the circulation of the singular opinions brought forwards, amongst the members of the medical profession, and those qualified to judge of the degree of credit due to them. In acquiescence, however, with the requests of our subscribers, we shall not longer withhold our individual opinion, which we must confess is not only unfavourable to a reliance in the means recommended by M. Marochetti, but to the belief even of the existence of those appearances under the tongue, which he asserts are the necessary agents in the completion of the dreadful train of symptoms which constitute this unhappy, and hitherto irremediable malady. We have never witnessed the pimples which he describes, nor can we hear of any other practitioner that ever has; and certainly, did the disease present such evident and palpable marks as these, they could not so long have been overlooked by those intelligent and attentive observers of this country, whose talent and consideration have been so peculiarly directed, in the most laborious investigations, to a disorder, which has ever been, and still is, regarded, wherever it is known, with an interest involving disappointed hope and chilling apprehensions. We consider, therefore, M. Marochetti's report in no other light than as a visionary speculation, built upon the deceptive foundation of enthusiasm; and we can regard it only as another instance of the facility with which the judgment may be misled by the fancy. The decoction of the broom-tops, which is the medicine used by M. Marochetti, is an old remedy for hydrophobia, though it does not possess any medicinal virtue which entitles it to any consideration in the cure of this disorder. It is merely purgative and diuretic, and as such is a valuable remedy in dropsies. Upon the whole, then, we should say, that we would not advise any faith to be placed upon the accuracy of the experiments, as related by M. Marochetti, much less a belief that the means adopted are such as will cure hydrophobia. We are totally sceptical ourselves, and, as far as our observations enable us to judge, no remedy has yet been discovered which has the power to arrest its progress, when it is once fully developed. The disease still remains an "*opprobrium medicorum*."

ANECDOTES OF BLIND BOYS.—There is scarcely any thing more interesting than the scene exhibited by removing the bandage from the eyes of a person who had been born blind, and restored to

sight by the skill of the surgeon. His first view of light, of colour and of objects, create in him sensations that overwhelm him. His astonishment at the new world knows no bounds. All is new, is strange. His newly-acquired sense presents to him every object with a new face. Accustomed to judge only *by the sense of feeling* he is incapable of forming conceptions of the size or figure of bodies *by the eye*. As to distance, he is totally ignorant of it; for a knowledge of this is effected by the operations of the organ of sight, matured by experience. Cheselden, the great surgeon, having restored a boy to sight, who was born blind, took him to the top of Shooter's Hill, a few miles from London (Shooter's Hill, we believe), and, the first time (by removing the bandage), presented the world to his view. St. Paul's Cathedral was pointed out to him, and he instantly extended his hand *to touch it*. His surprise at not being able to do so, equalled his pleasure in beholding it.—We remember a similar experiment. A boy, who had been born blind, and had undergone the operation for restoring his vision, was brought into a room crowded with spectators, and the coverings were removed from his eyes. He opened his eyelids, but instantly closed them, then as quickly opened them again, drew his hand over his forehead as though to exclude too much light; removed it again, again closed his eyes, and in the next instant opened them; and, for several seconds, continued alternately closing and opening the eyelids, apparently enjoying with astonishment and ecstasy the transition from light to darkness. He looked upon the persons and objects before him with intense curiosity, touched several things that were near him, immediately evincing the strongest expressions of amazement. He moved his body with much caution, and extended his hand slowly and fearfully, from an apprehension that he should strike rudely on surrounding bodies, which he imagined were close to him. One of the spectators held a knife before him, and commanded what it was. He made an attempt to take it in his hand, but it was withdrawn. He surveyed it attentively for some time, and then observed, he knew not what it was. "What!" says the interrogator, "cannot you tell me what it is, when you have been in the constant practice of using it several times a day? There is really nothing with which you are more familiar." The rebuke rivetted his attention; but he observed, in a subdued and disappointed tone, that he could not ascertain what it was: but immediately discovering an opportunity for seizing it, he darted his hand upon the knife; and the moment he had touched it, exclaimed, with an intonation expressive of surprise at his former hesitation, "*It's a knife!*" In another instance, the boy, who was about fifteen years of age, when restored to sight, thought scarlet the most beautiful of all colours; of the rest, the most gay pleased him most. The first time black was presented to him, he was very uneasy; and the sight of a negro woman, some months after, struck him with horror. Those objects were most agreeable to him that were smooth and regular; but he could not tell why they pleased him. A picture was shewn him; he found that those parts which, from their shades, appeared round and uneven, felt flat, like the others.

parts; he knew not which deceived him, his eyes or his hands, and he demanded which was "the *lying* sense," the touch or vision. His father's likeness in a locket surprised him, that a large face could be expressed in so little room: he should have as soon expected, he said, to have seen a *buskel* of any thing in a *pint* measure. At first, he thought he saw objects extremely large. He was unable to imagine any dimensions beyond those immediately in view; and though he knew the room he was in was only *part* of the house, yet he could not conceive that the *whole house* could look bigger than the room did. Blindness had this advantage, he said, that he could go any where in the dark much better than those, who could see. One eye only was operated on at first; and to this eye objects appeared larger than they really were. And the same occurred to the other eye after it had undergone the operation. But what proved the most curious was, that when he first used *both* eyes together, objects appeared *twice as large* as they seemed to one eye only.

DISLOCATION.—Mr. Cornish, a respectable surgeon of Falmouth, has published the following case of reduction of a luxation of the head of the thigh-bone, five years after the accident. We consider it important; lastly, on account of its confirming the remarks we have frequently made, on the *superior* qualifications of some hospital surgeons of this metropolis to exercise even the mechanical part of their art, and that by the celebrated John Hunter, that but too many die ignorant of surgery, although they held, for many years, appointments to the first hospitals in England;—and, 2dly, of proving the absurdity of condemning all attempts to reduce a dislocation twelve months after the accident.

"In 1812, M'Fadder, a seaman, about twenty years of age, coming up from Greenwich to London, on the outside of one of the stages, fell from the coach, and injured his hip. He was carried into St. Thomas's Hospital, where his case was treated as fracture of the neck of the thigh-bone. Having, after the lapse of some months, experienced no relief from the means that were adopted, he was discharged, *with the assurance that his limb would be useless to him as long as he lived!!!* The man was subsequently taken into Guy's Hospital. Sir Astley Cooper declared his conviction that the head of the bone was out of its socket; and after bleeding him, putting him into the warm bath, and administering nauseating doses of emetic tartar, attempted to replace the dislocated bone. The attempt was unsuccessful, as were also others that were afterwards made, and he was again dismissed as an *incurable* cripple!! In 1813, about twelve months after the accident, the man presented himself, on crutches, at the Falmouth Dispensary, for admission, when he gave me the foregoing history of his case. On examining him, I found the injured limb about two inches and a half shorter than the other, entirely useless, producing great pain in putting it to the ground, and the knee and foot turned inwards. There was considerable distortion about the joint, and the head of the bone appeared to have formed a socket for itself. In short, he had every diagnostic symptom of the dislocation upwards, which Sir A. Cooper

has noticed in his essay on this subject." In consequence of the duration of the accident, and the failure of the attempts at reduction, under the management of Sir A. Cooper, Mr. Cornish considered his case irremediable, and nothing was done for him. In March, 1818, he met the man walking about, without the least degree of lameness, carrying a heavy basket on each arm. On satisfying himself that he was the patient he had examined at the dispensary, and, on enquiring into the cause of his cure, he informed him that, in the summer of 1817, five years after the accident, whilst on a passage from Falmouth to Plymouth in a little coasting vessel, the ship made a lurch, which knocked him down. At the moment he fell, he heard a loud crack in his hip; and from that time he put aside his crutches, and perfectly recovered the use of his limb. The man is now doing duty, as an able seaman, on board a ship which trades from Falmouth to London. The practical importance of this case is not, perhaps, equal to the curiosity of its termination. It shows, however, the possibility of reducing a displaced joint, even after the lapse of years, when every impediment to reduction may be fairly supposed to exist, particularly the obliteration of the cavity of the joint, and when most surgeons would, perhaps, judge any attempt hopeless. It also serves to illustrate, in a very striking manner, the assertion of Mr. Abernethy, and others, that a slight "effort, when the muscles are not on the alarm, will succeed in reduction of dislocation, after violent measures have failed."

Mr. Cornish concludes with the following observation:—"I was a pupil at the Borough Hospital, in 1810, 11, and 12, in the course of which time I saw Sir Astley Cooper reduce a dislocation of the hip, which had been out six months; and this, I think, he then spoke of, as the most protracted case that he knew, in which surgical attempts at reduction had been successful."

We have lately met with a case of dislocation of the knee joint of a lady, of fifteen years standing, attended with considerable enlargement, which was completely reduced, and the swelling dispersed by a scientific Surgeon of London, who has, unquestionably, been more successful than any surgeon in Europe, in the treatment of injured and diseased joints and affections of the spine.

VACCINATION.—Dr. Thompson, of Edinburgh, has started a new flight of fancy, respecting Vaccination; viz. that it is not a *certain* preventive of small pox, but that it is a better preservative than the *small pox* itself!! The Doctor is of opinion, that the eruption denominated *chicken pox* is the *true small pox* modified by a previous attack, or by cow pox; and that the chicken pox is a more mild small pox after vaccination than after small pox!!! Now, an old woman of common-observation, who had seen the diseases twice, could have told this learned Doctor better. Chicken pox differs from cow pox not only in the size of the pustules, but the inflammation and suppuration of small pox eruption, after vaccination, the former being softer, the inflammation more healthy, and the eruption never maturing. Another fact is, small pox may be communicated by inoculation with the matter taken from a pustule, when it

occurs *after* vaccination, and on a person who had not been vaccinated, will produce *unmodified* small pox : whereas, chicken pox has never been communicated by inoculation. The breath has also a peculiar odour when the system is affected with secondary small pox, or small pox after vaccination, which is never attendant on chicken pox. But if chicken pox be modified small pox, by *previous* small pox or cow pox, how does it happen that it has the same appearance and runs the same course when it occurs *anteriorly* to small pox or cow pox !! We advise the learned doctor and some of his colleagues to have a greater respect for the reputation of the University of Edinburgh, as a school for medicine, than to publish such nonsense. The number of medical students both in London and Dublin, have of late years greatly increased, while those of Edinburgh have decreased, the reason of which Dr. Thompson cannot be at a loss to conjecture.

SWALLOWING THE TONGUE.—This accident sometimes happens after the operation of dividing the frænum of infants, who are tongue-tied, as it is called. Two of these dreadful cases occurred in the practice of Mr. Petit. A child, whose frænum had been cut almost immediately after its birth, was suffocated, and died five hours afterwards. They believed that the operation was the cause of the child's death. "They sent for me," says Mr. Petit, "to open the body. I put my finger into its mouth, and I did not find the point of the tongue, but only a mass of flesh, which stopped up the passage from the mouth into the throat. I cut up the cheeks to the masseter muscles, to see what had become of the tongue. I found it turned, like a valve, upon the fauces, and the point actually swallowed into the pharynx. Sometime after I was called to the child of Mr. Varin, *Sellier du Roi*, whose frænum they had cut two hours after its birth, and who, a little after, had fallen into the same situation with the child I have now mentioned, and was nearly suffocated. My first care was to introduce my finger : the tongue was not as yet entirely reversed into the throat. I brought it back into the mouth : in doing which it made a noise like a piston, when drawn out of its syringe." Mr. Petit waited to witness the effect of its sucking ; and having observed the act of swallowing for some minutes, the child fell again into the same state of suffocation. Several times he reduced the tongue ; and at last contrived a bandage to keep it in its place, but, by the carelessness of the nurse, the accident recurred, and the child was suffocated during the night. Another bad consequence may arise from cutting the string of the tongue ; which is, the division of the artery, or the vein that runs near it. In this case, the child continues sucking and swallowing its own blood ; and children have actually died from the hæmorrhage, the stomach after death being found distended with the blood they had swallowed. The practice of performing this operation is now pretty generally reprobated by our best writers, and we would call the attention of our readers to the remarks of that eminent surgeon and anatomist, Mr. Charles Bell ; who says, " I believe a very false opinion has much prevailed, that the shortness of this ligament, or its being continued too far forwards toward the point of the tongue,

prevents the child from sucking. The tongue, as I conceive, would sufficiently perform the necessary action on the mother's nipple, although its lower surface were universally adhering to the bottom of the mouth."

MISTAKEN CASE.—In the *Journal Général de Médecine*, a paper is given by M. Bourgeois, in which he states that a lady, who had been married twenty-two years, attained her forty-seventh year without children; having hitherto enjoyed the most perfect health, she was at this period seized with violent vomiting. The village doctor gave her three grains of emetic tartar, but without benefit. From this period she progressively got worse, lost her flesh and colour, her eyes became hollow and dull, and her altered features denoted deep internal sufferings; her spirits were depressed, and her mind, before calm and firm, became irritable and weak.

The case, which had been at first considered as purely nervous, was now set down as a cancerous state of the lower orifice of the stomach (the disease of which Bounaparte was reported to have died). She was bled, used the hot bath, took antispasmodics, and applied blisters; even the red hot iron was tried. In this manner three months passed away, Madam S. giving herself up to the blackest melancholy; thin, pale and exhausted, and thinking of nothing but her approaching end. Meanwhile, the belly was observed to present a striking contrast in its volume, to the emaciation of the rest of the body; it appeared tumified and distended, particularly in the right side. It was now concluded that the principal viscera of the abdomen were successively enlarging, and at the end of some weeks the existence of *dropsy* was declared *beyond doubt*.

A new plan of treatment was now adopted, consisting of cathartics which purge away water, squills, and other powerful diuretics; but, notwithstanding all these means, the disease continued its progress. The patient complained that she felt obscure beatings and unusual movements in the abdomen, which were attributed to the undulations of the dropsical fluid and the disengagement of gas.

The inferior extremities were become swollen, and at last the abdomen acquired such a volume that the skin excoriated and cracked. *Tapping* was now proposed!!! as the only means of affording relief, to which the patient readily consented, but at the same time expressed a wish to have the confirmative advice of another physician. This other physician, after inquiring into the previous history of the case, and examining his patient with a great deal of care, was rather surprised at not finding, in this enormous abdominal distension, the infallible and certain signs of dropsy which he had been informed of; he pursued his inquiries silently; and what was his surprise, when he found his patient in the last stage of—*pregnancy*!! His countenance, which was before grave and reflecting, now assumed a smiling aspect, and he asked "Madame," if she had provided herself with—a wet nurse. This interrogatory did not seem quite to please the attendants: some laughed at his simplicity, and others thought the occasion too serious for a joke; but the doctor maintained his opinion so ably, that it was at last resolved to postpone the operation

for a month. In three weeks the patient was *delivered of a fine girl!!!*

This case presents several features for our consideration; and a very prominent one is, the ignorance of the attendant practitioners; so that if the experienced physician who was last called in, had not been consulted, both the lady and her infant would have expired, most likely, under the hands of an ignorant operator, calling himself a surgeon.

Another point deserving attention is, the age of the lady, as connected with the puerperal state. These cases are not really so rare as are generally imagined. We are personally acquainted with two ladies, the one fifty, and the other nearly two years older, who are hourly expecting their "accouchment."

The third consideration involves a question in medical jurisprudence, of a serious, moral tendency. It is seen in the above case, that the most violent remedies were administered; such medicines, in fact, as the medical attendants would have shuddered at giving, had they even guessed at the real situation of the patient; and yet it did not prove ultimately prejudicial either to the infant or the mother. It is a proof of the care with which nature guards the vital spark; the resistance she opposes to its destruction; the increasing energy with which the preservative principle protects the embryo from noxious agents, buffeting, as it were, with maternal solicitude and energy, the storm that threatens destruction to the object of its care, and at length triumphantly effecting the completion of its destinies, amidst the struggles of contending forces, redeems the pledge imposed on her by the creative power, in delivering into life a new being. If then we sometimes see the most violent medicines imprudently administered, without arresting the progress of pregnancy, how much oftener must they fail, when given with a *criminal* intention. The practice of physic, and an observation of the laws of the animal economy, convince us, that there is no part of the human frame acted upon with so much difficulty by agents directed against it, as the foetus, previous to its separation from the parent; it is, in fact, the last part on which any impression can be made, at the will either of the ignorant, the inexperienced, or the assassin; and we would seriously impress this sentiment, not as an intimidation alone to premeditated wickedness, but as a sacred, solemn fact.

WATER DOCTORS.—It has chanced that our opinion has lately been required in three cases, the subjects of whom had been under the care of one of those *experienced and scientific gentlemen*, denominated "*water doctors*;" and it is curious that it should happen that these three persons present cases, in which (even granting that these *learned practitioners* derive any knowledge from inspection of urine) an examination of this fluid affords so little information, even to the well informed medical man, that it really amounts to nothing. One of these was a case of organic disease of the uterus: what information the sapient *doctor* received from the inspection of the usual bottle, or what benefit he expected the patient would derive from his medicine, can only be appreciated by the *doctor's* conscience. The next case was, that of a gentleman with a diseased

colon; precisely the same remarks apply to this as to the former case. The third case is that of a young tradesman, in the Minorities, who is labouring under that incipient stage of consumption, occasioned by the irritation excited in the pulmonary organ, by tubercles in the lungs. This patient has continued to send to the doctor, weekly, for *four months* past; during which time, as may be expected, his disorder continued its devastating progress, and will as certainly pursue its course to the destruction of his life; for, in defiance of his unmitigated symptoms, and regardless of the reproaches of his friends, his faith in the water doctor is not yet lost. The two former patients have relinquished, with disgust, the purlieu of Newman Street; and the latter, we fear, will have too much reason to lament his credulity. We know not which most to condemn, the wickedness of an impostor, who will sacrifice the lives of his fellow-creatures, for the base advantage of pecuniary reward, or the infatuation of his votaries, who forfeit every principle connected with the dignity of our species, at the shrine of his folly and ignorance, and become the victims of a pretended power, on whose altar a weak understanding had foolishly hung the destinies often of a whole family.

It is very true, certainly, that many diseases and symptoms of diseases are denoted by the condition of the urine. The branny sediment in the hectic state of consumption; the transparent red, or deep brown colour of this fluid in inflammatory fever; the red crystals of lithic acid deposited in gouty cases; the pale colour in hysteria; the brown bilious-like hue (staining white paper) of it in jaundice; the brown muddy appearance in derangements of the liver; the yellowish green viscid urine of persons with dropsy of the belly; its peculiar sweetness in diabetes; its milky white appearance in some of the disorders of the duodenum; the bright green colour in similar affections, &c. &c. &c., are all appearances which guide the judicious practitioner in the exercise of his judgment; but it must be recollected, that the secretion is perpetually varying, being more susceptible to changes (by various impressions made upon the system, as well as from the nature of our diet and medicine) than any other secretion: thus, at the termination of fever, the urine loses its transparency, and deposits a reddish matter; in ague, the appearance of the urine varies with the stages of the disease; a few grains of rhubarb taken into the stomach, affects the urine in a very short time; and alkalies and acids, vegetable and animal food, individually produce very contrary conditions of this secretion.

Every person must have observed that the urine, even of those in health, deposits, upon standing, substances of different appearances; as it cools, a grey powder falls, which becomes covered with a stratum of mucus; this powder, after some little time, acquires a red tinge, and soon afterwards forms into perfect crystals. Mucus is invariably found suspended in the urine; and may be separated by passing the urine, whilst warm, through a filter: the mucus remains on the filter, and the urine afterwards deposits a powder-like substance; the flocculent appearance, therefore, which the sedi-

ment of urine often assumes, arises from a mixture of this mucus with the sediment. This mucus is secreted by the inner membrane of the bladder, as a means of defence against the acrimony of the urine, which could not be endured were not this soft bland viscid secretion spread over the whole of the lining of the organ : by drying, this mucus loses its transparency and becomes red, owing to the presence of uric acid. If a person, after standing or sitting a long time, passes urine into different vessels, it will be observed, that there is more mucus in the first vessel, less in the second, and so on, until the last contain none whatever ; which arises from the mucus having fallen, by the position of the body, to the neck of the bladder, and consequently passing off with the first portions of urine ; but, if the person has been reclining long on his back, then the contrary takes place : the first portion is clear, and the last turbid, a portion of the mucus still remaining in the bladder. When urine is thus evacuated in separate vessels, that portion which is passed clear and not mixed with mucus, affords no precipitate, whilst that which contains mucus is found, in the course of twenty-four hours, to contain an abundance of red crystals. This experiment leads to the conclusion, that the presence of mucus favours the crystallization of urine ; and that urine, which does not contain enough uric acid to yield it in crystals, upon cooling, when separated from the mucus, will, nevertheless, afford it, if the mucus be suffered to remain. In urine, then, it is necessary to distinguish between the two kinds of matter deposited ; the one is only mechanically suspended, which is mucus ; the others are salts, dissolved in the warm fluid, but separated from it as it cools. Uric acid is generally the substance thus precipitated in combination with animal matter, perhaps, the mucus of the bladder. The following is the constituent principles and proportions of urine, according to the analysis of M. Vaquelin.

Water.....	933,00
Urea	30,10
Sulphate of Potass	9,71
Sulphate of Soda	3,16
Phosphate of Soda.....	2,94
Muriate of Soda	1,45
Phosphate of Ammonia	1,65
Muriate of Ammonia	1,50
Free Lactic Acid	17,14
Lactate of Ammonia	
Animal matter, soluble in Alcohol	
Animal matter, not soluble in Alcohol..	
Urea, not separable from the preceding	1,00
Barthy Phosphates, with a trace of fluete of lime.....	
Uric Acid	1,00
Mucus of the bladder	0,32
Silica	0,03
	<hr/>
	1000,00

SECRETIONS OF THE BODY. — “A Subscriber” has addressed a communication to us, in which he states, that he “does not, in the various remarks we often make respecting the secretion of the body, sufficiently understand the exact import and extent of the term, ‘*secretion*,’ and as,” he believes, “there may be others of our readers in the same predicament with himself,” he modestly requests we will “afford an explanation, as will convey such a knowledge of the subject as to enable him to understand in future our remarks upon this interesting branch of physiology.”

We are ever ready to comply with the wishes, and gratified by every opportunity of fulfilling the requests of our correspondents; and there is no part of our duty performed with so much satisfaction and alacrity as the communication of such information as conduces to the extension of the understanding and to an enlargement of the capacity for receiving and retaining correct views of medical science; and we, therefore, invite our readers to interrogatory epistleship, to which, we trust, we have hitherto given sufficient evidence of our attention, to render any further pledge unnecessary. But we must hasten to our reply.

Every part of the body is known to be plentifully and minutely supplied with blood vessels, which are derived from two common trunks, arising from the heart. These trunks are called, the *pulmonary artery*, and the *aorta*; the former being distributed to the lungs alone, whilst the latter supplies the rest of the body. These vessels, in their course through the human body, gradually lessen in their diameter, penetrate every fibre, and, at length, having become exceedingly minute, terminate in these several different ways.

1st, The minute termination of arteries is into other equally minute vessels, called *veins*, which commence their progress to the heart, and gradually receiving others of the same kind, (as smaller streams, by their confluence in their route towards the ocean, become at length extensive rivers, which disemboque themselves into the sea) reach the heart in two large trunks, called the *cavæ*, thus completing the vascular circle for the circulation of the blood through the body, the heart being the centre through which the whole fluid column passes.

2d, Arteries terminate in fine and insensible orifices, which deposit every where new particles for renovating the body; for it must be understood, that the process of removal of the old parts, and the deposition of new, is continually exercised; so that the particles composing our bodies are perpetually undergoing a series of mutation. Every part then is supplied by its own vessels, with a material similar to its original structure; the vessels of muscles deposit muscle; those of bones, deposit bone; those of the skin, deposit skin, &c.; under accidents, however, to some structures of the body, the depositing vessels of the parts do not repair the injury with similar materials;—but this is foreign to our subject.

The third termination of arteries is in secreting extremities; and a variety of forms in structure has been destined for this arrangement; but the common property of all, is the elaboration of some peculiar fluid, to effect some particular design. This fluid is called

a *secretion*; and we shall now proceed to illustrate the position, by the following examples.

These secreting vessels are wound up in certain parts of the body, so as to form bunches or clusters called glands; these glands, differing in size, from a mere point to that of the liver. The secretions of the mouth are termed the *saliva*, and the glands which furnish it, are called *salival* glands; they have however, in addition to this name, which is common to all of them, an appellation proper to each; viz. the *parotid* glands, which are two large whitish glands of the neck, situated one on each side, between the ear and the lower jaw; it sends out a canal or duct, that perforates the mouth, between the second and third molar teeth, through which its secretion passes. The two *maxillary* glands are smaller than the former, and are situated on the inside of the angle of the lower jaw; the duct from each gland, terminates by a small orifice within the mouth. The two *sublingual* glands are situated under the end of the tongue; they send out several short ducts, which open near the gums. The two *molar* glands are placed in the cheeks, opposite the double teeth; they appear like two small lumps of fat; they send out small ducts, which open into the cavity of the mouth. All the inside of the cheeks is full of small glands, called *buccal* glands, which open by small orifices, through the membrane of the mouth; the lips also are full of small glands, and are perforated by small holes, answering to each gland; they are called *labial* glands. The tongue has its glands, called *lingual* glands; and the palate also its glands, called *palatine*. The *uvula*, which is that soft fleshy body hanging from the centre of the palate, is a bundle of glands, its form somewhat resembling a bunch of grapes; there are two glands, situated one on each side the root of the tongue, whose surface being uneven and full of holes, is thought to resemble the outside of an almond shell; they are therefore called the *almonds*; and it is common to hear mothers say, when these glands are enlarged by cold, &c. that "the almonds of the child's ears are down!!" They are also called the tonsils.

The *secretion* then of all these glands, is the *saliva*, which dilutes the food, and assists in the process of digestion. The *tears* are the secretions of the *lacrymal* glands of the eye. *Wax* is the secretion of the *ceruminous* glands of the ear. The interior of the nose furnishes a mucus, which is denominated the secretion of the *schnneiderian* membrane. *Bile* is the secretion of the liver; *gastric juice*, of the stomach; *urine*, of the kidneys; *fat*, of the *adipose membrane*; *marrow*, of the cancellated or internal structure of the bones, &c. &c. &c.

Our limits do not allow us at present to pursue this interesting subject any farther; we have, we trust, said enough to inform our readers, what is meant by the term secretion; we shall, at a future opportunity, explain the nature and uses of the secretions in general, and shall point out, what we must of necessity now omit, the physiology of the liver, as this viscus presents an exception to the general description we have given of the structure of secreting organs.

ACUPUNCTURATION.—We continue to hear of fresh instances of the success of this operation; a most remarkable one of which has lately occurred in the practice of Mr. Jukes, surgeon: A female, residing at Westminster, having suffered severely under a rheumatic affection of the back and chest; and having taken antimony, guaiacum, calomel, hemlock, henbane, bark, opium, &c. under the direction of a respectable medical man; at length sent for Mr. Jukes, who knowing, from the symptoms, that it was one of those cases, in which derangement of *nervous* functions constituted the disease, informed her, that he should be enabled to remove her complaint in five minutes. Her astonishment at this declaration, was only equalled by her impatience for the remedy, which Mr. Jukes instantly resorted to. He passed a needle, one inch and a half in length, into the loins, upon the right-side of the spine, and another, of the same length, into the opposite. The pain, which had been constant and severe for a great length of time, had now considerably diminished in *one minute*; and after the space of three minutes, the patient declared she was entirely cured. The needles, having remained in the part five minutes, were withdrawn, and the disease was found to have subsided, and has not again returned. Mr. Jukes recommends the previous application of an exhausted cupping-glass, by which, the sensibility of the part, he says, is lessened, by the compression of the nerves, occasioned by the turgescence of the cutaneous and subcutaneous vessels, as well as by the pressure of the edge of the glass; after which, the needle occasions such a very slight degree of sensation, that the patient is not always sensible of its being introduced, and yet the operation proves equally beneficial. It is astonishing with what impunity, and with how little suffering, pointed instruments may be pushed into the living fibres. Seamen are in the habit, for the sake of sport, of thrusting a netting-needle through the thigh, inserting it at the upper part, passing it by the side of the bone, and bringing it out at the under part; and this, they assert, they do without pain. Acupuncture is well known, in the country, amongst farmers and graziers, as a remedy for cattle when “blown,” as they term it. The animal becomes excessively distended with gas in consequence of eating a large quantity of improper food (turnips generally), which is let out by pushing a pointed instrument (we have seen a pen-knife used) into the bowel. In cases of tympany in the human subject, such a needle as used by the French surgeons (which we described in a former number, when speaking of Mr. Churchill’s book on Acupuncture) might, we think, be employed with safety and advantage.

MEDICAL RETORT.—The Editor of a Medical Journal having occasion to quote a passage from the work of a reverend divine, appears a little chagrined at the sentiments it expresses. “The author of ‘Lacon,’” he says, “has taken the liberty of casting his little bit of sarcasm, too, on the profession of physic; speaking of physicians, he says, ‘they have been tinkering the human constitution four thousand years, in order to cure about as many disorders; the result is, that mercury and brimstone are the only two specifics

they have discovered. All the fatal maladies continue to be what they were in the days of Paracelsus, Hippocrates, and Galen—*opprobria medicorum*.' We might retort upon the reverend author of the work cited, by asserting, with much more truth, that *his* brethren, the priests, have been preaching up holiness four thousand years, and yet, according to their own confession, the people are now more wicked than ever they were. If this be not a pretty significant *opprobrium theologorum*, we know not what is."—Now follows the cream of his spleen.

"We are reproached by this sapient *divine*, because we cannot cure *fatal* diseases; but he takes not into account, the millions of acute diseases which would prove fatal, were it not for the assistance of medicine. *We should like to see the author of the above under a smart attack of enteritis*," (a very humane wish to see a fellow-creature writhing under the horrid pain of inflammation of the bowels.) "This cobbler of souls would soon cry out for one of the 'tinkers of the human constitution.' "!!!

COLCHICUM.—There is certainly nothing so disgraceful amongst persons professing the medical art, as the practice of depreciating a remedy whose utility induces a favourable opinion of its virtues, for the base purpose of recommending some secret nostrum, the composition of which is kept in concealment, under the selfish principle of personal gain. If the medicine thus attempted to be raised into popular celebrity, upon the broken reputation of some other, be in reality quite as valuable as the latter, it is still an ungenerous and unworthy motive alone that attempts to build the fortunes of one upon the wreck of an equally respectable rival. We intend these remarks to apply to Mr. Reynolds and his gout specific. The doctor has long laboured to undervalue the colchicum as a gout remedy, and to extol his own composition as a superior medicine. Now, the hardly-earned and well-deserved reputation of colchicum ought surely to command his respect, (as it does of every *honest* experienced practitioner,) and it most probably would do so, did not that base motive which sinks the human mind to the very bathos of moral degradation, *self interest*, stifle the monitions of honourable feelings, and in the breast not hedged against the possibility of an intrusion of doubtful sentiments, merges the true dignity of the soul, in the struggle that leaves the bad triumphant. But in the conduct of Dr. Reynolds we have even more than this to censure; for who could imagine, whilst listening to his insinuations against colchicum, that *colchicum root is really his own medicine*? A case of sudden death, occasioned by the administration of this gout specific, we published some time since. Our favourable opinion of the alkaline wine of colchicum *seeds* is fixed upon our own experience, and upon the increasing demand for it; the former we are certain does not deceive us, and the latter leads to a conclusion that (which if not strictly logical is at least fairly presumptive) a similar result is experienced in the practice of others. The *root* of the colchicum acts powerfully on the system, but the seeds are comparatively mild, and no instance has occurred of their not acting beneficially in cases of gout and rheumatism.

SCROFULA.—The reputation of iodine still increases, and should its success proceed much farther in the same ratio as the past, we shall probably ere long regard it in the same relation to scrofula as mercury in the cure of syphilis. Amongst the cases which have fallen under our observation of this nature, an instance in a female deserves to be recorded, as well from the degree of the disease as the rapidity with which the medicine removed it. This patient, now about fifteen years of age, in very early childhood suffered considerable enlargement of the glands about the neck, which, until the period of commencing the administration of the tincture of iodine, (about a month ago,) resisted every attempt to reduce them. The tincture, in the dose of twenty drops, was taken twice a-day, and no vestige now remains of the disease.

WEN.—An intelligent gentleman of Norwich informs us that the following composition, prescribed by the late Dr. Hewson, an eminent physician of Middlewich, proved successful in dispersing a large wenny tumour, which for some time threatened suffocation.

Take of Peruvian Bark, 1 ounce;
 Conserve of Roses, 2 ounces;
 Burnt Sponge, half an ounce;
 Simple Syrup sufficient to form an electuary.

The size of a nutmeg was taken three times a-day.

The correspondent who favoured us with the communication, which appeared in our last number, of a remedy for wen, desires us to state, that “the unslacked lime, (fresh from the kiln) should be mixed with a sufficient quantity of soft soap to form a plaster; and when spread thickly on leather, the surface should be thinly covered with the white of an egg, at the time of applying it. When the plaster falls off, a fresh one should be applied.” This is a powerful caustic, and should be employed only under the superintendence of an experienced surgeon.

JAUNDICE.—A Dr. Miller, an American physician, supposes that he has discovered a remedy for jaundice, in the phosphoric acid. We shall give his communication of the discovery in his own words. “Above six years ago, I had a very obstinate case of jaundice that resisted the common remedies; I was led to use the phosphoric acid, on the principle that it decomposes the bile. I made choice of this on account of its existing in a *separate state* in the blood. I directed a large spoonful of the acid as prepared in Murray’s *Materia Medica*, in a pint of balm tea, to be taken as fast as the stomach would bear it, till it should operate as a diuretic. In twenty-four hours the patient had taken eight pints, and it had operated powerfully as a diuretic. Neither the urine nor the white of the eye was as yellow as before by a very obvious difference. I ordered a continuance under the same direction, and in two days more the urine was of nearly the natural colour, but the skin had not improved in the same proportion. I advised tonics with the occasional use of the acid, and my patient shortly recovered.

“I have had many of the same complaints since that time, and have directed nearly in the same manner, according to the age and condition of the patients, and the result has been the restoration in a very

short time. In general the yellowness disappears in three or four days from the urine, but continued a little longer on the skin by the use of tonics, and sometimes a little of the acid: this is however removed in a few days. I have met with only one patient whose symptoms have not yielded to the above plan. This was a person 80 years of age; even in this case, however, the acid always produced relief, but the complaint soon returned. My present practice is to give a cathartic of calomel and jalap, or some neutral salt, and then the balm tea, moderately acidulated with the phosphoric acid, which I direct to be continued till it operates as a diuretic, and until the urine becomes clear or nearly so; this commonly takes place in the course of two days. I have advised other acids when this has not been at hand; but I am inclined to give the preference to the phosphoric, although I think the others deserve a further trial. I might have entered much more into detail, but I am satisfied that it needs only a trial to convince any candid person of the advantage of this acid in the cure of jaundice. I have never seen any bad effects from the use of the phosphoric acid, although it is said that phosphorus is poisonous. This I have never used." Even if the phosphoric acid were capable of decomposing, can it be conveyed to it when it does not pass through the biliary duct into the duodenum, as is the case in the jaundice? We deny that bile is decomposed by the phosphoric acid, or by any other acid. The idea that the bile is a strong alkaline, and that it is neutralised by an acid, is erroneous, evidence of which we intend to give in our next number. The doctor's assertion that phosphoric acid exists in a *separate* state in the blood, betrays great ignorance of animal chemistry, or the component parts of the blood. If the doctor's ideas were correct, viz. that bile is decomposed by phosphoric acid, and that the acid exists in an uncombined state in the blood, jaundice would never occur, because its distinguishing character is occasioned by the bile which is conveyed to the mass of blood by the absorbents of the liver. The phosphoric acid, even in small doses, generally disagrees with the stomach, and seems to have a contrary effect to that of the mineral acids. On this account it is seldom prescribed in this country.

APOPLEXY.—A great diversity of opinion having existed among medical men of extensive experience, as to the extent to which an abstraction of blood should be carried in cases of apoplexy, and also as to the vessels from whence it should be taken, Mr. Sutcliffe, a surgeon and apothecary of considerable experience and observation, residing within the limits of the city of London, has made the following communication on the subject, which he no doubt thinks will put the question to rest:—"Just now perusing the extract from Dr. Latham, on bleeding in cases of sudden seizures, commonly called fits, I have been led to reflect on several cases of *sanguineous* apoplexy, which have terminated *variously*. I concede, *with all humility*, that the opinions of Dr. Latham ought to be retained among us with almost *oracular veneration*, when I reflect on his *unceasing vigilance*, and the extensive opportunities he has enjoyed; and from the period of 1794, during which I have occasionally experienced the advantage of his *superior* judgment, I submit to the

imperative duty : yet, on the other hand, when I bear in mind that the life of a fellow-creature is, above *all price*, valuable, I cannot help regretting the manner in which he has expressed himself!! In the instances in which a restricted bleeding by the lancet, or other means, there has existed a bounding pulse, I feel convinced, that had the depleting method been persisted in till the patient fainted, I should have witnessed a favourable issue more frequently ; for I have long conceived, that as palsy is the result of a considerable augmentation of the calibre of the cerebral arteries, probably at the basis, so apoplexy is an actual rupture of those identical vessels ; and if the patient, during an apoplectic paroxysm, be blooded *ad deliquium*, he will have the fairest opportunity of recovery by the *healing* art, under a possibility of the restorative action of the absorbents. Whether the theory be correct or not, I am not prepared to contend for ; but this I can affirm, that the last three cases which I have had under my entire control, have been as unpromising as any, and yet they have been restored by depleting measures, carried to an unusual extent."

To bleed a person during an apoplectic paroxysm, when he is, of course, in a state of insensibility, till he faints, is somewhat a novel, and surely a bold practice. When effusion has taken place to a considerable extent, the probability would be, that it would terminate the fit, by terminating life. Dissection has proved, that in apoplexy, effused blood is venous, and not arterial ; and that the venous *sinuses* of the brain are over-distended, and not the arteries. What do you say to these facts, most experienced, observant, and communicative Mr. Sutcliffe ?

SOCIETY OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE.--At the last meeting of this society, a letter was read from Dr. Giraudy, secretary to the society of the same name in Paris ; in which he states, that he is desired by the Parisian society, (consisting of the most eminent members of the medical profession on the continent) to congratulate the members on their success in establishing a society for the laudable purpose of checking the rage of publishing fanciful theories, and making books, with the view of giving publicity to the names of the dreamers and compilers, whose only objects are, like those of the most daring quacks, to tamper with the lives of their fellow creatures, for the sake of base lucre ; and to communicate to the profession valuable facts, which alone can advance the healing art to that degree of perfection as can entitle it to the confidence of men of education and discernment. He observes, that in England, more than any other country, such a society is wanted ; for in England alone is quackery protected by the legislature : and the quackery of pretended superiorly educated physicians, (whose trade is now termed the *sovereign* remedy practice, instead of the *guinea* trade,) and of nostrum mongers, is so blended, that foreigners are at a loss to discover the impostor from the man of genuine practical information and moral rectitude. He also states, that the society of Paris is desirous to co-operate with that of London, in their most praise-worthy undertaking ; and, in order to do it effectually, to be united. In consequence of this intimation, the London Society has

agreed to be united to that of Paris; and to act in conjunction with it, in promoting practical medicine, for the honour of the profession, and the good of mankind.

At the last meeting of the society, a paper was read on a branch of medicine which has been much neglected, both by the ancient and modern physicians, viz. extemporaneous prescriptions, in which the writer satisfactorily proved the absurdity of forming an opinion of the value of a prescription by its chemical character; for, although it may appear to the philosophical or analytical chemist to be unchemical, the new combinations that form, may, on being taken into the stomach, produce beneficial effects, which the articles were incapable of doing, had they not been decomposed. He contended, that the value of a medicinal composition could only be ascertained by repeated experience. He pointed out the absurdity of the chemical observations which are dispersed through Dr. Paris's *Pharmacologia*, to guide young practitioners in writing prescriptions, which he very justly termed pedantry. Messrs. Price & Griffiths communicated a case of tape worm, in which the spirit of turpentine had been administered, to the extent of eleven ounces, at different intervals, (in the dose of an ounce and a half,) in the course of twenty hours, without effect. They also communicated the particulars of a case of *fungus hematodes*, which they successfully removed by ligature. The society is desirous to establish a correspondence with a leading medical gentleman in every county, and to receive communications from them. Dr. Dods, of Worcester, presented a copy of his physician's society, and was elected a corresponding member. Their quarterly work will not appear till the first of August. We are happy to understand, that the price is not to exceed 2s. 6d. a number. Communications are addressed to the secretary, Mr. Sheppard, 31, Duke-street, Piccadilly.

QUACKERY, (continued.)—Another cause of the prevalence of this traffic is found in the great expence attendant upon advice and medicine in regular practice; a consideration which has driven tradesmen of good understanding to the nostrum shops; for there lies no alternative between the mischief of quackery and the inconvenient expence of the Physician and Apothecary: so that the public, if they do not lay down and die, without resistance to their diseases, must fall either into Scylla or Charybdis. The Legislature does not allow the apothecary to charge for his attendance, and as he, consequently, possesses no other claim to recommendation for his trouble than he is legally allowed to charge for his medicines, he necessarily sends a daily number of nauseous draughts to make up a bill that shall in some measure pay for his time and attendance. This evil does not rest alone upon the patient, but the apothecary shares it also; the former is obliged to be constantly swallowing a nauseous potion which injures his appetite, and thus probably removes the best agent towards his recovery; whilst the latter, for the sake of the recompense, adds greatly to his annual expence, by increasing the bills of his glassman, his druggist, &c. We have this day received the copy of an apothecary's bill, in which eight draughts, three boluses, and six powders, are charged daily, for many weeks,

in a simple disease ; and what converts the farce into a serious drama is, that this was a case of charity, undertaken by the apothecary at the instance of a person who was desirous of extending medical assistance to his friend, whose finances did not allow him the means of obtaining it. If apothecaries were allowed to charge five shillings for each visit, without any demand for medicines, this disgraceful practice would be renounced, and the *guinea trade* would soon languish, and a regular practice would soon be established to the general benefit of both apothecaries and patients.

It has been objected that were such a measure as we have proposed carried into effect, the apothecary, out of parsimoniousness, would not supply his patients with the proper quantity of medicines. This is answered by observing, that the apothecary would stand in the same relative situation as he now does, as regards responsibility. We conceive that every man's aim is reputation, and the sooner the patient recovers, the more likely he is to obtain it ; and besides, he risks the danger of incurring the dissatisfaction of the patient or of his friends, if the case appears unnecessarily tedious, and he may be discharged. Upon the whole, we think there would be no grounds for such a charge ; it accords with the popular joke, that "doctors give their patients a draught to-day to do them good, and another to-morrow to make them worse again."

When Henry the Eighth instituted the College of Physicians, it was presumed, as is clear from the duty he imposed upon them, that they were acquainted with surgery and pharmacy ; for the members are not only authorised to exercise the chirurgical art, but to examine the drugs, &c. of the shops of the apothecaries : now if the king had known that they were ignorant of surgery, he would not have granted them authority to exercise it ; for Henry, except for his own private gratification, was not very ready to countenance imposition. As to an acquaintance with the characters of drugs, it is notorious that the graduates of Cambridge and Oxford (and but too many of Edinburgh even) have not the ability to distinguish one from another : their own charter, therefore, from the particular licences expressed in it, would lead to the conclusion that Linacre, whose influence with the king obtained it, imposed upon his majesty with respect to their qualifications.

It is indeed laughable to witness the assumed gravity, the shake of the head, or the expressive smack of the lips, of some of our courtier physicians, and other sticklers for the fee trade, when examining a medicine, at the bed-side, although they are profoundly ignorant of the means of judging of it : but they have two motives in this pretended scrutiny ; the one is, to *appear* to know something of it ; and the other is to be afforded an opportunity of reprobating "the carelessness with which it has been prepared," or the "bad quality of the drugs of which it is composed ;" and then they give a hint "that prescriptions prepared at Mr. ——— are compounded with the very best medicines, and with the greatest accuracy." A little discrimination tells you that the druggist and the physician are partners in the proceeds of such recommendation. This practice is really very common in the metropolis, and often

forms part of the chamber science, in which the doctor is the chief "dramatis persona." One of the celebrated physicians of the day, a man basking in the sun-shine of royalty, lately ordered for his patient a mixture containing a solution of Epsom salt and salt of tartar. At his next visit he beheld part of the medicine in the phial with a *white powder* settled at the bottom. "Hey day!" says the astonished *philosopher*, "I ordered a mixture of two salts *extremely soluble*, and here is an *insoluble powder* settling in the menstruum; there is a gross ignorance *somewhere*." And in truth the doctor was right in *all* he advanced, for the mixture was unchemical, and the powder which he observed was magnesia derived from the decomposition of the Epsom salts by the kali.

The charter of this "Royal College of Physicians" is found to contain a singular licence, which is, a permission to any one and every one to practise the healing art by the use of *herbs only*. Now we really do consider this as ample a permission as any man would require, for poor must be the resources of that physician's mind, and very narrow his knowledge of medical botany, who could not from the vegetable kingdom alone cure most of the diseases of the human frame: even the specific of mercury, if we were driven to the necessity of a substitute, might probably be rivalled in some of these productions of nature. We know not whether we have most reason to hail the discovery of mercury as a blessing, or regard it as a curse, since the diseases it entails are as numerous as those which it cures. Our best informed dentists declare that they can clearly witness the progress of the use of mercury in the increasing diseases and decay of the teeth. There are serious objections also to other articles of the metallic world: antimony, iron, and arsenic are dangerous remedies in the hands of the ignorant; and mankind, perhaps, in the aggregate, would be benefitted by their expulsion from medical practice. A medical man, really concerned for the proper dignity and respect of his profession, cannot, without emotions of regret, witness the practice which has of late years prevailed amongst apothecaries of encouraging the nostrum trade. It has been defended by this argument, that this class of practitioners has lately increased so exceedingly by the reduction of the army and navy, that the regular practice of the country does not afford them the means of subsistence, and they are obliged to resort to the sale of nostrums to make up the deficiency; for it appears, from some recent calculations, that in this metropolis there is a medical man to every seven hundred persons; a proportion certainly inadequate to support the medical practitioner by respectable means, when we consider the large number of those who are unable to receive medicines except through the means of charitable institutions. There is scarcely a chemist also, however respectable, that has not some nostrum or pretended superior preparation, as a leading article to keep up his trade; deprived of which, his business would soon dwindle to nothing. Here we may notice the "smelling salts," the "yellow essence," and "cordial lavender," of Godfrey;—the "Seidlitz powder" and the "Cheltenham salts" of Paytherus, &c. &c. &c. Is not this, we would ask, a sanction of quacking in a quarter from which we ought not to receive it? The use of the Latin language in all matters of medical science is

too often the cloak of ignorance. This custom is now the reproach of this country only; for in America, Portugal, Spain, and France, the examination of candidates for diplomas is conducted in the vernacular tongue; whilst in London, a licence to practise physic cannot be obtained until the applicant has gone through a Latin examination; and should his classical attainments be insufficient to enable him to support a controversy in that language, he is not allowed to enter upon the practice of his profession within the jurisdiction of the college, however splendid may be his medical talents; in fact, instances have been known of the rejection of men of acknowledged abilities, in consequence of their not sufficiently understanding the questions put to them in a language with which they were not familiar enough to be able to enter into a colloquial conversation. An American physician, even were his knowledge of diseases superior to that of the members of the profession in England, could not practise in this town unless he were master of the Latin language; the college laws, instead of promoting, injure "the interests of his majesty's liege subjects and his good city of London." Another circumstance which excludes the physicians of the continent from the practice of London, is the extent of the demand made by the College of Physicians for a licence, which amounts to seventy pounds. A charge for a licence or diploma is peculiar to this country, and is disgraceful to the state, that fosters a body, whose avarice and cupidity deprives the community of the services and talents of many a valuable character. In France and the United States of America, medical education is obtained at a very trifling expense, compared with that of this country; for here, the professor and heads of classes stretch their cord of exorbitancy to its utmost limit; and the student, if he does not come well prepared with the means of satiating this extortion, must limit the extent of his information to that of his purse. No one, to be satisfied of this truth, need look farther than to the annual prospectus of lectures, &c. at the different medical schools in this metropolis, which are industriously circulated, like so many bills of fare at a tavern, and the student may, if he can pay for it, gorge himself upon a share of the whole, or take a snack only of such parts as suit best with his pocket. (*To be continued.*)

BLOOD.---SIRS—Most of your readers, though not of the medical profession, are most probably familiar with a certain peculiar appearance of the blood which is observed often in fevers, more especially in cases of inflammation, particularly of an important organ; or in any state of the body attended with increased velocity of the circulation. When blood has been drawn from a vein under such circumstances, and has remained at rest a sufficient time to allow of the complete coagulation of the solid or red part, and of the separation of the fluid or serum from it, the coagulum, or crassamentum as it is called, is seen firmly contracted into a small, almost spherical body, considerably scooped out at the upper part, so as to resemble a cup, (it is called the cupped blood,) with the edges thin and wide, projecting inwards, and hanging over the hollowed surface, somewhat like the mouth of a bag slightly contracted by a drawing string. The upper (or as it might almost be called the inner) surface of this blood is

observed to be of a very different colour to the rest of the coagulum, and instead of presenting the natural *red* appearance of the blood, it exhibits a bright *buff* or *yellow* covering, which if divided, by passing an instrument through it, is found to be of various thickness, density, and tenacity, in different cases. The following case furnishes an instance not often met with.

Mr. Thornick, of Douglas Street, Westminster, some time previous to the beginning of the year, received a cold from getting wet, which induced a slight cough; this he neglected for a month or six weeks, when he became alarmed in consequence of a vessel in the lungs giving way during coughing, and he instantly sought advice. Twelve ounces of blood were taken from the arm, and digitales administered; the loss of this quantity of blood but little retarded the velocity of the pulse, which was beating 110 strokes in a minute. The next day, the blood was found "cupped and buffy," and sixteen ounces more were extracted. This bleeding considerably reduced the frequency and hardness of the pulse, and in fact produced such a decided effect in taking off the determination of blood to the lungs, and of the irritation of the whole system, as to snatch the patient from impending consumption, towards which he was rapidly verging. This second quantity of blood, being carefully examined the next day, presented the following phenomena: the crassamentum globular, and in size less than a cricket-ball; deeply cupped; thin inverted edges; surface covered with the buffy coat. A pin thrust through it suspended the mass, whose weight was supported by the extreme toughness of this membrane-like covering, which on being divided, and a rule applied to its edges, was found to be of the astonishing thickness of three-eighths of an inch; it was readily peeled off entire, and is now in my possession, resembling a dense strong fibrous membrane. It may not be amiss perhaps to state that this substance is one of the constituent portions of the blood called "*fibrine*," (or, from its quality of becoming solid, "*coagulable lymph*,") it is quite distinct from the red particles or colouring matter of the blood, but yet it is intimately mixed with it, and under ordinary circumstances, does not, after bleeding, separate from it, and attach itself to the surface, as it is found to do in the instances before enumerated.

I am, Sirs, your humble servant,

London, Feb. 27, 1822.

MEDICUS.

CUTTING INSTRUMENTS.—The thanks of the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, were last session voted to George Reveley, Esq. of Queen Square, for a communication on the use of soap instead of oil, in setting cutting instruments on a hone. It sets quicker, gives a good edge, removes notches with great facility, and is a much more cleanly material than oil; the operation is performed as follows:

Having first cleaned the hone with sponge, soap, and water, wipe it dry; then dip the soap lightly over it until the surface is thinly covered all over; then proceed to set in the usual way, keeping the soap sufficiently moist, and adding from time to time a little more soap and water, if it should be necessary. Observe that the soap is clean and free from dust before you rub it on the hone; if it should not be so it is easily washed clean. Strop the razor after set-

ting, and also again when you put it by, and sponge the hone when you have done with it."

A paste or powder for razor strops, very superior to emery, plumbago, and any other things commonly used, has been discovered in Paris, by M. Meumé. It is the crystallized tritroxyde of iron, called by mineralogists specular oligiste iron. It is a mineral substance, but an artificial oxyde of equal fitness for the purpose may be made thus:—Take equal parts of sulphate iron (green copperas) and common salt, rub them well together, and heat the redness into a crucible. When vapours have ceased to rise, let the mass cool, and wash it to remove the salt, and when diffused in water collect the brilliant micaceous scales which first subside. These, when spread on leather, soften the edge of a razor, and cause it to cut perfectly.

GREEN CROP, &c. &c.—Mr. John Murray, F.L.S. M.W.S. &c. &c. of London, in a letter to Dr. Tilloch, expresses his surprise that millet has not been cultivated in this country, as it long has been in Tuscany, as food for cattle. Having reared it for his amusement, he has ascertained that it is as hardy as the canary grass, and therefore would thrive in this country. In the southern counties of England he thinks it might profitably succeed the crops of wheat.

In Italy, particularly about Cremona, a variety of flax, termed *Lino Monochino*, obtained originally from Bavaria, has been long cultivated. It is esteemed much superior to any other, on account of possessing a fine silken fibre.

Mr. Murray also recommends the culture of Indian corn in this country. In the Neapolitan kingdom, a variety of this corn, called Mellica Quarantina, is sown as a successional crop, after a crop of wheat. It becomes ripe for the sickle in forty days. This variety is certainly well adapted to our summer, and Mr. Murray seems to be satisfied that it "may be naturalised to this climate." He, like Mr. Knight, recommends the corn to be steeped in water of a genial warmth, before it be committed to the earth, in order to determine promptly its germinative power, and thereby anticipate the time its perfect developement will require.

Mrs. Agnes Ibbetson condemns the practice, very prevalent in this country, of burying weeds and turning in your crops, with the intention of making them serve as manure. The earth, she justly observes, instead of decomposing them, absolutely preserves them and the weeds, as the roots are afterwards propagated.

In one of our early numbers a method of decomposing weeds, by means of lime, is given from the pen of Joseph Moore, Esq. of Dorking, which has been adopted in many counties with the most decided advantage.

PECTORAL BALSAM OF THE ICELAND MOSS.—This nostrum is made by a Mr. A. A. Harvey, of Bath, who states in his advertisement, that he has been *qualified by* the Royal College of Surgeons of London, and that he was, like the great *Doctor James Johnson*, of verbose and sympathetic notoriety, examined for diseases of European and tropical climates, and from his phraseological style we suspect he is, as our Bath correspondent intimates, the learned

doctor's principal amanuensis. The proprietor commences his dissertation on this wonderfully healing balsam with observations on the antiphthisical properties of the Iceland moss, which, he says, have been acknowledged by the most eminent physicians. He declares the balsam to be beneficial in *all diseases* of the lungs, and that it effects wonders in all their stages. In the first stage of consumption it prevents ulceration, and *allays* inflammatory action; and in the last stage, it heals ulceration and *rouses* the mental powers!! In Bath, patients afflicted with diseases of the lungs may have the *great advantage* of consulting the learned proprietor at *his dispensary*, and those in London may of course consult, if they think proper, the learned Doctor James Johnson. For the benefit of suffering humanity he has "humanely appointed" agents in different parts of England to retail his nostrum at a moderate price—a Mr. Young of Bath, who of course is a *scientific* chemist, has agreed to become a vender!! On examining this pectoral balsam we have not been able to detect any thing in it resembling the Iceland moss. It is only an anodyne syrup of vinegar!!! Mr. Young, this celebrated *scientific* chemist, should have known the medicinal virtues of the Iceland moss cannot be so far concentrated in a liquid state that a tea-spoonful should contain a proper dose; and if Mr. Young had had any regard for his character as a chemist, he would not have allowed his name to appear either as the maker or vender of such a contemptible nostrum, or in sanctioning so cruel and dangerous a traffic. Mr. Harvey has also, during his long voyages and extensive experience, discovered an antibilious family pill, which, like himself and Dr. James Johnson, is become *celebrated* for the cure of *all bilious complaints*. It corrects the "grand secreting organ of the liver—equalises the various sympathies of the body, cures lesions of functions, and harmonises the nerves, and tonifies tissues, both membranous and muscular, of the animal machine." This pill, he says, neither contains calomel nor antimony; he might have added, nor any thing else of any consequence but aloes!! If any of the learned surgeon's patients have fancied they have received benefit from this nostrum, on taking as much of the common horse aloes, obtained at the shop of a *respectable* chemist in Bath, we have no hesitation in stating they will derive equal, if not greater advantage from it. Mr. A. A. Harvey is likewise a proprietor of a "*Bath gout elixir*, and a *hooping cough elixir*," which, he says, are very *valuable* discoveries. We recommend this traffic to the College of Surgeons of London, who, the learned gentleman says, have been so kind as to "*qualify* him for it!!" It is certainly the first time we have heard of the competency of this body to qualify a person to practise quackery. We also beg to recommend this gentleman and his nostrums to the attention of the mayor of Bath.

COCKLE'S COMPOUND ANTIBILIOUS PILLS.—The proprietor of this nostrum, a Mr. Cockle, represents himself to be an apothecary; and such is his reputation, that he cannot hesitate to pledge it, that it contains no mercury nor noxious ingredient whatever. The nostrum is introduced "*under the distinguished patronage of the nobility, clergy, gentlemen of the law, medical men, and officers in the army and navy*. It ennobles nobility,

induces the clergy to practise as well as preach Christianity, renders gentlemen of the law and members of the medical profession *conscientious*, and officers courageous; and, by carrying off crudities, it wonderfully softens men's manners, and suffers them not to be brutish." It is highly extolled as an infallible remedy for "*Indigestion, loss of appetite, costiveness, wind, heartburn, drowsiness, pain in the head or stomach, sick head-ache, dimness of sight, redundant bile, yellowness of the skin, intemperance in eating and drinking, blotches, eruptions, pimples in the face, bitterness in the mouth, acid eructations, oppressive pains, &c.*" No matter as to the causes of these maladies, the remedy will drive out the diseases, and leave the body healthy. If the dimness of sight, pain in the head, &c. arise from plethora or depletion, or if they are primary or symptomatic affections, the pills will cure them; and no man acquainted with the high reputation of Mr. Apothecary Cockle, obtained during his practice at Great Oakley, in Essex, will dare to oppose his assertions. If any person should be so sceptical as to doubt, for one minute, the great importance of his discovery, or his word, let him read the long list of those who have done him the honour to patronize his nostrum, consisting of dukes, earls, bishops, baronets, physicians, learned divines, &c. &c. On reading this list, we were not a little surprised to meet with names of gentlemen whom we supposed incapable of sanctioning quackery. We accordingly wrote to three of them, viz. the Bishop of St. Asaph, Sir William Rowley, Bart., and Alderman Wood. The venerable bishop and the honourable baronet denied having any knowledge of the pills, and the worthy Alderman declined saying any thing about them, in such terms which plainly conveyed his disapprobation of the traffic, and of any knowledge of the pills, as to their virtues, &c. Had we written to all the gentlemen and ladies whose names are advertised as patronizers of the pills, we should no doubt have received similar replies. Of the medical men who have allowed the learned apothecary to make use of their names, there is not one who ranks above mediocrity, and all, in point of professional acquirements, are on an equality with the proprietor.

Our medical readers are aware, that no chemist can analyse a vegetable composition with such accuracy as to state with precision the component parts. The composition of these pills, so *honorably* patronized, as a specific for *all* bilious complaints, is so simple as not to be capable of doing much mischief, even in those affections of the head, &c. in which an aperient may not be proper, and consequently not likely to do much good in those which require an active constitutional purge. The following composition is so similar to it, that we have not been able to discover any difference between them, either in effects on the stomach and bowels, or on hemical examination.

Take of extract of colocynth, half a drachm.

Aloes, two drachms.—Mix.

As an "*antibilious or family pill*," the compound colocynth pill, or the cathartic extract, is very superior to Mr. Cockle's nostrum, two-pennyworth of either of which will make three of his shilling boxes.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 77.

To MAY 1, 1822.

Vol. VII.

ON THE PECULIAR PROPERTIES OF PURGATIVE MEDICINES.

(Continued from Page 93.)

GAMBOGE is the juice procured by incision of the plant which furnishes it; it soon becomes solid after it has been extracted. The gamboge brought from the East Indies, is formed into rolls or cakes, and seems to be a different substance from that obtained from Siam and Ceylon; the gamboge from the former place being in small round bodies, called gummi, guttæ, or gum drops. The Siamese gamboge is superior both to the Ceylon and Mexican; it is of a deep yellow or orange colour, has no smell, and very little taste, unless kept in the mouth for some time.

Gamboge is in some measure an unmanageable remedy, sometimes proving violently emetic; disposed to act immoderately and dangerously as a purgative, whilst it often creates disappointment in failing to produce any sensible effects whatever. Administered alone, its action is so precarious, that it cannot be relied upon, except given in considerable doses, and which necessarily involves the risk of inducing vomiting; this latter effect is attributed by Dr. Paris, to its ready solubility in the stomach, by which the organ is quickly and powerfully impressed by its action; but the sagacious Geoffroy asserts, that it is much more liable to produce vomiting, when given in the shape of a pill, than if administered in solution. "The inconvenience," says Dr. Paris, "arising from its too rapid solution and sudden impression upon the stomach, may be obviated by diminishing the dose, and repeating it at short intervals, as the following:—

“Take of Gamboge, in powder, three grains;

Loaf Sugar, twenty grains;

Rub them well together, and take this quantity every three hours, until the bowels have been sufficiently acted on.”

This emetic liability of gamboge is, however, according to Geoffroy, removed by the addition of calomel; and for this purpose it would be most advisable to blend the two articles, and exhibit them in the same vehicle; for example—

Take of Gamboge, in powder, four grains;

Calomel, three grains;

Rub them together, so as to form a powder, which is to be mixed in a table-spoonful of honey or treacle, and repeated four hours afterwards, if the first dose has not operated.

But it has been satisfactorily ascertained, that the best mode of preventing the emetic effect of gamboge is to incorporate it intimately, in small quantities, with some other purgative article that

does not itself readily dissolve in the stomach, and which, by enveloping the gamboge, protects it from the action of the alimentary fluids, until it is carried beyond the boundaries of the stomach, when there is no danger of its producing vomiting. Aloes and resinous gums are very proper vehicles for this purpose: example—

Take of Gamboge, in powder,

Socotrine Aloes,

Compound Powder of Cinnamon, of each one drachm ;

Simple syrup, as much as is sufficient for making a mass

To be divided into pills, of five grains each, two of which may be taken as occasion requires.

In the above form, gamboge will but rarely be found to produce sickness or nausea; but where it is an essential object to prevent such effects, it will perhaps be more prudent to lessen the quantity of it, supplying the deficiency by some other active but somewhat *insoluble* purgative; the resin of jalap presents itself as a very proper article for this purpose, but from its griping quality, an aromatic must be conjoined: as we are forbidden by the views we have of the gamboge to add any substance that would quicken its solution, the want of which probably causes it to gripe; example—

Take of Gamboge, in powder, half a drachm ;

Resin of Jalap, in powder,

Aloes, in powder,

Jamaica pepper, of each two scruples ;

Essential Oil of Carraways, ten drops ;

Beat the whole into a mass with a sufficient quantity of syrup, and divide it into 36 pills; three of which may be taken at bed time.

An opening pill of this kind will be found to act effectively and not unpleasantly; and, if taken at going to rest, occasion no disturbance until the moment it begins to act, which will rarely take place until the next morning.

The London Pharmacopœia directs a pill of gamboge, aloes, soap, and spice, as a common and active purgative; but if the emetic effect of gamboge arises from its ready solubility in the stomach, the soap must surely be an injudicious addition, as it facilitates the solution of the aloes as well as the gamboge. Ten grains of this pill will however generally be found to act as a useful purgative, without disordering the stomach. The following is the receipt, as directed by the College of Physicians :

“Compound Pills of Gamboge—

“Take of Gamboge, in powder,

Socotrine Aloes, in powder,

Compound powder of Cinnamon, of each, 1 drachm ;

Soap, two drachms ;

“Mix the powders, then add the soap, and beat the whole into a homogenous mass.”

But objectionable as may the exhibition of gamboge be in many cases, and under particular circumstances, it will *in general* be found an useful auxiliary in combination with other cathartic remedies. It is also one of those purgative medicines which peculiarly stimulate the nervous structure of the bowels, and is therefore analogous to

aloes in its effects of deriving sensorial influence to the intestines, and lessening it in the head. It acts also on the exhalent system of the intestinal membrane, occasioning copious fluid secretions; but this effect most probably arises, not from a *direct* influence of the medicine on the arterial capillaries of the mucous lining of the bowels, but as a consequence of its stimulus rousing the nerves that regulate and controul the vital functions of the exhalent vessels to an excitation of the latter, impelling them to increased action and secretion.

It is a fact deserving notice, that when gamboge has been so administered, as to produce violent vomiting or purging, or both, it is unattended with pain, and the operation, though excessive for the time, soon ceases. After all that has been said of the best mode of exhibiting this drug, it will be found, perhaps, most eligible to give it in a liquid form, highly diluted, when the stomach is moderately distended with some thin demulcent food. For this purpose, the quantity proposed to be administered might be dissolved in eight or ten ounces of water. Upon the whole, then, gamboge, with all its disadvantages, will, in the hands of the judicious, be a valuable auxiliary to other articles of a similar nature, and, in a variety of diseases, may be beneficially employed; some of which will now be noticed, with the form under which the medicine may be used.

For Tape Worm :

Take of Gamboge, twenty-four grains;

Calomel, fifteen grains;

Aromatic Confection, a sufficient quantity to form it into three boluses, one of which may be taken in the morning, and repeated every third or fourth hour, if the worm be not expelled sooner.

It has by some been administered for the expulsion of tape-worm, in the dose of fifteen grains, with the same quantity of soda, or salt of tartar; and it is asserted, that the second, and even third dose of the medicine has been ventured on within the space of a few hours, not with safety alone, but with success.

For Dropsy :

Take of Gamboge, in powder, ten grains;

Calomel, five grains;

Squills, in powder, six grains;

Ginger, fifteen grains;

Extract of Broom Tops, two scruples.

Beat them well together, and divide the mass into eighteen pills. Three may be taken twice or three times a day.

With cream of tartar, and with jalap, it forms a powerfully cathartic remedy in this complaint, and may be combined as follows :

Take of Gamboge, in powder, ten grains;

Cream of Tartar, one scruple;

Ginger, in powder, three grains;

Simple Syrup, as much as is sufficient to form it into a bolus : to be taken in the morning.

Take of Powdered Jalap, twenty-five grains;

Gamboge, in powder, eight grains;

Syrup of Ginger, enough to form a bolus, which is to be taken in the morning.

In dropsical cases, it has lately been ascertained to be empirically administered, in the quantity of twenty-four grains (and often much more); and it is stated, by the gentleman who makes the report, ~~that~~ even this quantity operated, "without griping in the slightest degree; emptying the bowels more effectually, and with less uneasiness, than I had ever observed from any other purgative."

Gamboge is a remedy often used for the cure of specific inflammation of the urethra; and it is asserted, that sailors are in the habit of taking it to the quantity of forty grains for this purpose. But, under all circumstances, gamboge must be considered a violent remedy, which, though it may be taken by many to a great extent, must be administered to most with caution. Under proper restrictions, it may be usefully employed, either as a simple purgative, or to answer particular specific purposes; and though of less certain efficacy alone, it is found to quicken the operation, and heighten the beneficial effects of other remedies.—(*To be continued.*)

TROPICAL CLIMATES.—The enlightened Doctor James Johnson, has, after much mental fatigue, finished a new edition of his book on the Influence of Tropical Climates on European Constitutions, which, he flatters himself, will be found the best "treatise on the principal diseases incident to Europeans in the East and West Indies, Mediterranean, and coast of Africa," that has appeared in the English, or indeed in any other language. To this edition the leaped author assures his readers that he has added a new feature, which he regards "an *essential requisite* in every work," on diseases of the Torrid Zone; viz.—The consideration of climates bordering on the Tropics, the diseases of which he has ascertained to resemble, at *particular* periods, those of the equatorial regions; and, what is still of great importance, that they all acknowledge no *Cancer* or *Capricorn* boundaries; "for the same," says he, "sallies occasionally from La Plata to the Scheldt—sweeping the Banks of the Ganges, the Euphrates, the Nile, the Tiber, the Guadalquiver, and every *sinuosity* of the great Western Archipelago."!! Notwithstanding this formidable foe is headed by that invincible tyrant, grim Death, the terror of kings and conquerors; the gallant doctor has pursued him, even through all the *sinuosities* of the Archipelago, to his ultimate destinies; and has thereby ascertained that the relentless foe, when arrived there, is so kind as to consider the constitutions and habits of the unfortunate objects of his attack: hence the different effects of his morbid poison in different parts of the world; viz.—the endemic of Bengal, the bilious fever of Bombay, the cholera morbus of Madras, the yellow fever of St. Domingo, the dysentery of New Orleans, the pulmonary consumption of the Mediterranean, the bigotry of Italy, the patriotic mania of France, and the radicalism and night-mare of England. Another fortunate discovery, of vast importance, the philanthropic and courageous doctor has made, is, the means of defeating the devastating object of the

grim Tyrant; viz. boluses of calomel and opium, and the lancet, which he has ascertained perfectly to his own satisfaction to possess such anti-morbific powers, that *General Death*, soon finding his powerful army of Epidemics useless, abandons the field to the learned descendant of the great Esculapius. The frequent sallies of this formidable enemy to the human race has, however, rendered a "*tropical Hygiene*" necessary, to enable those whom he may assail, in "*various climates*," to resist his formidable attacks with success; and this the doctor supposes he has completed. His figurative ideas of the sallies of the relentless foe to mankind in general, but by some deemed the best friend to the faculty, is beautifully sublime; and does him immortal credit as a man of sympathies and wonderful "*celebral functions*."

In the chapter on the influence of a tropical climate on the European constitution, the sympathetic doctor observes, that immediately after a draught of plain cold water, the temperature of the body loses, by *abstraction alone*, one degree at least of its heat. "But," says he, "the *external surface* of the body sympathising with the *internal surface* of the stomach, *relaxes*, and a mild perspiration breaks out, which reduces its temperature to its *natural standard*."!! Although the well-known effect of the cold water to the stomach is contraction of its internal surface, the *relaxation* of the skin which follows, he attributes to *sympathy*!! Practitioners in general attribute the increase of perspiration following a draught of cold water, to the increased determination of blood to the skin, which, in fevers, it uniformly produces, and the consequent diminution of the temperature of the body to evaporation; for the abstraction of heat, occasioned by a draught of cold water, would have very little effect on the whole body. "The *simultaneous relaxation* of the two surfaces," the doctor has also found "*completely*" to remove the disagreeable sensation of thirst; and," says he, "as the simple *antediluvian* beverage does not possess many *Circean* charms for modern palates, there will not be the slightest danger of its being abused in quantity, or the perspiratory process carried beyond its *salutary limits*." Minute observer as the doctor has been of the effects of remedies, he is not aware that a second draught of cold water will often counteract the effect of the first on the skin, probably by diminishing the powers of the heart.

The first effect of a tropical climate on an European, is an increased secretion of bile. This, observes Dr. Johnson, is evident in our own country, where the summer and autumn are distinguished by diseases arising from a superabundant secretion of bile; and, therefore, would be waste of time to use any arguments to prove to the contrary:—viz., that the matter of heat increases the bilious secretion of the liver. Now, the fact is, that invalids, who suffer from irritative affections of the liver and stomach, generally enjoy a better state of health in this country during the summer than any other season; and as to the biliary affections which occur during the autumn, they arise from plenitude of the vessels of the viscera, the consequence of the circulation of the skin being checked by the diminution of the temperature of the atmosphere.

It is the rapid increase of the temperature of the air, which takes place, after sun rise, in tropical climates, which operates injuriously on Europeans. The doctor has discovered, that "there exists between the biliary *secretion* and *perspiration* one of the *strongest* sympathies in the human frame; although," says he, "entirely unnoticed, as far as I am acquainted." We have heard and read much of the independent vitality of the blood, but this is the first time we have heard of a sympathy between *secretions*!! The doctor is so partial to the words, sympathy, lesion, function, and equalization of circulation, that one of them occurs in every page of his voluminous book, and indeed, now and then we meet with all of them in one line. They are certainly fine sounding words, and on the minds of his ignorant readers cannot fail to produce a wonderful impression of high esteem for his professional abilities. In the chapter on the sympathy of *functions, mental and corporeal*, he is wonderfully great. Here we have *gastrico-hepatico-cutaneous* sympathies, and forty more fine sounding words. He has also discovered *lesion* of functions and functional lesions, and the sympathy of functions from functional lesions in remote parts. Oh, it is great, very great, to have such imposing strength, and above all to make such an imposing display of it. The vulgar meaning of the sympathy of hepatic and cuticular secretions, probably is, that there exists a greater degree of sympathy between the liver and skin than any other parts of the body. Now, if perspiration affords more relief in an inflammatory affection of an internal part than another, it is the lungs. And if this is to be attributed to sympathetic influence, the sympathy between the lungs and skin is greater than that between the liver and skin. The doctor, in all his learned books, (now very numerous), has dwelt so much on the sympathies of the body, that he really thinks himself to be the first who broached the doctrines of sympathy, whereas they are to be found in the works of the oldest writers. The following extract affords a strong proof of the doctor being as well acquainted with the different *causes* of diseases, and with *causes and effects*, as he is with sympathies and functional lesions.

"In truth, there is no such *thing* as a *proximate cause* of fever, the whole train of symptoms being a *series* of *causes* and *effects*, extremely difficult to delineate or comprehend. If *any thing* could deserve the name of *proximate cause*, it would be some peculiar state or phenomenon *invariably present* at the beginning of fever, and without which the disease could not be said to exist. But all writers agree that there is *one* symptom, state, or phenomenon, which is constantly observable in fever. Neither quickness of pulse, increased heat, thirst, nor head-ache, can be laid down as pathognomonic; for although *some* of these are *always* present, no *one* of them is invariably so"!!

To make a comment on such profoundly learned matter, would be offering an insult even to our non-medical readers. The doctor differs also in opinion with some professional characters, with regard to the *time*, when blood should be abstracted in cases of fever. Some advise it on the commencement of fever, with the view of

cutting it short or subduing its violence; for the mischief the brain and viscera sustain is chiefly, if not entirely, to be attributed to violent exacerbations and protraction; but, the learned doctor contends, that "blood should be abstracted when the fever has arrived at the acmé of its exacerbation." The practitioner possessed of common sense would, we conceive, rather attempt to moderate fever, by timely bleeding, than delay it till an exacerbation.

With respect to the effects of mercury on the system, the learned doctor has discovered that the profession has been ignorant of it. Because this remedy quickens vascular action, and excites an *artificial* fever, it is considered a stimulant. "Narrow, indeed," says he, "is that view of the mercurial action, which stops short at its quickening the pulse, and exciting an artificial fever. The fact is," proceeds the accurate observer, "that the ptyalism is merely a symptom that the salutary glands are affected in common with every other gland, and *every secreting and excreting vessel* in the system."!!!

That a man should publish such nonsense for the instruction of members of the profession, is not surprising; but that there should be purchasers of such nonsense among the members of the profession, is to us a matter of great surprise and regret. A non-medical reader, of common sense, must be aware that the increased secretion of the salivary glands is the consequence of stimulation; but when the glands are enlarged and painful, can a medical man doubt, for one moment, that they are in that state, and that it is the consequence of the mercury? Every surgeon of observation, who has seen any practice, is aware of the stimulating effects of mercury on absorbents. In another place, the Doctor observes, the *excitement* produced by mercury must be kept up!!! This is medical logic with a vengeance! *excitement* by a *sedative* or an *antistimulant*!!

Under the head of "Endemic of Bengal," the doctor gives the case of a young man, "who was seized with the usual symptoms of the fever." The doctor, unfortunately for the poor patient, did not see him till the cold stage was past; "*but*," says he, "the reaction was violent, the head-ache intense, skin *burning* hot, great oppression about the præcordia, with quick hard pulse, thirst, and nausea." He prescribed an emetic; "and, towards the close of the operation, discharged a quantity of *ill-conditioned* bile, both upwards and downwards; soon after which a perspiration broke out, the febrile symptoms subsided, and a remission, almost amounting to intermission, followed. I now," proceeds the doctor, "with an air of confidence, began to *throw in* the bark, quite sanguine in my expectation of soon checking this formidable disease. But, alas! my triumph was of very short duration; for in a few hours the fever returned with increased violence, and attended with such obstinate vomiting, that although *I* tried to *push on the bark*, through the paroxysm, by the aid of opium, the effervescing draughts, &c., it was all fruitless, for every dose was rejected the *moment* it was swallowed, and I was obliged to abandon the only means by which I had hoped to curb the fury of the disease." The other methods he tried he does not notice, because they "were only temporising

shifts;" but, says he, "the plain truth was, that I knew not what to do; for the sudden and unexpected failure of that medicine on which I was taught to depend, completely embarrassed me; and, before I could make up my mind to any feasible plan of treatment, my patient died, on the third day of his illness, perfectly yellow, vomiting to the last a dark fluid, resembling vitiated bile, and exhibiting an awful specimen of the effects which a Bengal fever is capable of producing, in so short a period, on a European, in the vigour of manhood."!!!

We confess, during so violent a paroxysm of fever, we should not have administered an emetic, nor should we have attempted to "*push on the bark* through the paroxysm," when the stomach was in such a state of irritability. The body was opened in the presence of this able physician. "The liver," he says, "was gorged with blood, and it actually fell to pieces on being handled."!!! An ignorant surgeon would suppose that the peritoneal covering and the blood vessels would have prevented its falling to pieces; but when so accurate an observer as Dr. Johnson makes the assertion, no one can doubt it. The gall-bladder contained a little bile, of the colour and consistence of tar. The internal surface of the stomach, and some parts of the intestines, exhibited appearance of *incipient inflammation*. The chest was not examined, "on account of the time taken up in getting at the brain;"!! a very satisfactory reason indeed—a good hint for those surgeons who have to examine the bodies of subjects of thick skulls, and for those physicians of small brains, and thick skulls, who wish to leave instructions for being opened after death. When the doctor got at the brain, he discovered no appearance of inflammation.—The relation of this case is certainly highly creditable to the doctor, as a man of candour.

Another new discovery the learned doctor has made, is a property in marsh-poison, of attracting lofty umbrageous trees. We have heard of mountains attracting clouds, but we never heard before of marsh-poison attracting lofty trees. This discovery proves that there may be some truth in the account which appears in an old History of Herefordshire, of the Marcle Hills, near Ledbury, having travelled three days, probably in consequence of being attracted by some marsh-poison. The poison closely adhering to the leaves, the trees produce a diversion in favour of the inhabitants, who, although they were ignorant of the cause, preferred situations where these umbrageous trees existed. The explanation of this phenomenon was reserved for the great Dr. James Johnson. It is, indeed, an able refutation of the doctrines broached by some narrow-sighted philosophers, that vegetables absorb impure air, and emit oxygen. The fact is, green leaves only attract pernicious particles, and retain them on the surface. How insignificant is the doctrine of gravity of Sir Isaac Newton, when compared to that of the celebrated Doctor James Johnson! Speaking of the spasms, which occur in cholera morbus, the doctor observes, as they are totally unaccounted for by his predecessors, he is not bound to dive into the mysteries of the *nervous* system for a solution of the phenomenon!!! It would be too great a sacrifice of the time of so great a philosopher.

"But," says he, "*I think I have pretty clearly proved that they are not attributable to bile, since, in the most dangerous and fatal cases, no bile was found;!!!* and in another place he states, that the cases terminated most favourably when accompanied with bilious vomiting or purging!! Now, if there was no appearance of bile, the disease was not *cholera morbus*; for the pathognomonic symptom of that disease is a discharge of bile upwards and downwards. In the account of the dysentery of New Orleans, it appears, the observant doctor has made another important discovery, namely, the existence of two separate abscesses in the large lobe of the liver. Some suppose the disease of the liver is merely contingent, and not necessarily connected with dysentery; but, says the doctor, "*I think I am warranted, by facts, in maintaining the contrary.*" The circumstance which gave rise to the discovery of this important fact we shall give in his own words:—

"It was by accident I first discovered the fact, and I shall relate it concisely, just as it happened. A naval officer, for whose *talents and virtues* I shall ever entertain the highest respect, whose memory I shall ever *affectionately* cherish, and whose *death* I shall *ever regret* as the *loss of a valued friend*, was the first on board H. M. S. Cydnus that fell a martyr to dysentery off New Orleans. He happened to die at sea, and it became *desirable* to preserve his body until we should reach some port, where the funeral honours, due to his rank, might be decorously paid. In order to effect this, it became necessary to remove the intestines. While doing so, I ascertained that the liver was much enlarged, and therefore thought that it also had better be removed. Having separated it from its lateral connections, I passed my hand up under the ribs, in order to detach it from the diaphragm. While making a slight pressure for the latter purpose, I was astonished to find the points of my fingers pass through the thin parietes of a *large abscess* in the upper and central part of the right lobe, from which *upwards of a quart of pus* forthwith flowed. After the liver had been removed, and laid out for minute inspection, I found the abscess of such extent, and so lined in its inner surface with a thick, fretted, and irregular exudation of coagulated lymph, that it resembled a familiar and homely object, namely, a *large winter glove*, lined with worsted!! On accurate examination, a second abscess was found, lower down in the large lobe, containing a pint of pus."

"This officer had never, at any period of the disease, felt any pain in his side: from his general intelligence, and from the accurate descriptions he gave me daily of his minutest sensations, I am convinced he would have mentioned that pain, had it existed even to the extent of a '*sensus molestiæ*.' Besides, he was one of the last men in the world that one would have suspected of hepatic affection, being *florid* in complexion, and having previously enjoyed the best health all his life.

"Instructed by this insidious case, I had my eye to the liver ever afterwards; but pain of side, or pain or pressure under the ribs, was by no means often felt, though dissection after death brought to light hepatic disorganization, equally extensive as in the above case.

In many, the liver, to appearance, had the colour and size of health; and it was not till on cutting into its parenchymatous substance, that the extensive abscesses were discovered."

It must, we think, appear very evident to every medical man, that the case of the officer was, in the first instance, inflammation of the liver; and that suppuration should take place, to such an extent, without being attended with pain, is certainly most extraordinary, for the collection of *pus* shews the inflammation was of that active kind, which is always accompanied with pain, namely, acute inflammation. The dysenteric affection was clearly the consequence of the extensive suppuration, in the substance of the liver; and had active means been employed to subdue the inflammation, the patient would, probably, have been at this time in possession of health.

In his learned dissertation on "Hepatic Derangement," which abounds with beautiful specimens of sublime fancies, most profound "pathological logic," and imposing exhibition of fine-sounding words, the doctor attributes the "peculiar sallow complexion of Europeans long resident in hot climates, to *non-secreted bile*."!!! "To be more explicit," says he, "the derangement in the hepatic functions, originating, indeed, through *sympathy* with the skin, affects, in its turn, the tincture of that skin, by means of absorbed and *non-secreted bile*, and these yellow and sallow tints, acted on by the rays of a *tropical sun*, *gradually verge*, in the course of generations, to a sable hue!!!" "*Non-secreted bile*."!!!! Well, well; no end to discoveries of "important facts." Is then bile formed in the blood, independent of the liver? What a most contemptible, most absurd, most ridiculous idea. The doctor has now, indeed, outdone the great Dr. Solomon; but *Doctor Johnson* writes for the information of medical men, and *Doctor Solomon* only for the ignorant. The Medical Society of Bolt Court will, no doubt, reward him handsomely for so brilliant an idea, and the Society of Practical Medicine of London will elect him an *honorary* member, and transmit his discoveries to posterity, to the honour of our times, and especially those medical men, who patronise this *sun* of the medical world.

Another important discovery this great philosopher made, during his residence in a tropical climate, is also worthy of notice in a physiological point of view; namely, that "the *change of colour*, and, in some degree, of texture also, which takes place in a tropical climate (for the rete mucosum is thicker in Indians than in Europeans), renders the exterior of man less sensible of *atmospherical heat*, in consequence of which a more mild and uniform action in the *perspiratory* vessels succeeds, and, by *sympathy*, a correspondent equilibrium in the secreting vessels of the liver!! "thus," says he, "the skin, which was the *first cause of disordered secretion* in the liver, becomes ultimately the *grand protection* of that organ, and the derangement itself, in process of time, *creates its own antidote*."!!! The beauty of medical reasoning, when medicine consisted of little else than technicalities, or fine-sounding words, was incomprehensibility; and in those times the doctor would have

been a wonderfully clever fellow. Some medical philosophers of the east have supposed that the "atmospherical heat" acts, in the first instance, on the brain, and that this organ, in all the diseases which occur in the East Indies, is primarily affected. We are surprised the observant doctor has omitted to notice this opinion; because, if it be a fact, the *thickness* of the *skull* must be of greater consequence than the *thickness* of the *rete mucosum*. The learned doctor having escaped the injurious operation of a tropical climate, will, no doubt, communicate to his *enlightened* readers, to what circumstance he was indebted for his good fortune.

The doctor's peculiar phraseology, his sublime flights of fancy, his modest egotism, amused us; but, as the old saying is, too much of a good thing is good for nothing: we became nauseated in a short time. We, however, persevered, in the hope of "getting at the brains of the book;" and having gone through three parts of it, we have given up the search, from the conviction that the doctor's fort consists in making books with the brains of others, and that his ingenuity consists in mixing the opinions of others with his own nonsense, so as to make them appear to be his own. It is, however, due to so great a man to notice that part of his prefatory address, in which he alludes to the conductors of periodical journals. After stating, with his usual candour and liberality, that he is aware that numerous imperfections and deficiencies may be readily detected by his Reviewers: he observes, "to the criticisms of those who point them out he is perfectly callous; while to the judgment of the good and wise he is tremblingly sensible." In another place, he states, "that he would rather have the abuse of the editors of *some* journals than their praise, because it costs nothing." In the doctor's opinion, the man who commends his work, is good and wise; but we would tell him, he is not his friend, nor the friend to science: and we tell those who have praised his nonsense, that they have done more to disgrace the members of the profession, and to diminish the confidence of the public in the healing art, than all the works of quacks, by bestowing commendation on such a contemptible production. Will Dr. Duncan, jun. Dr. Uwins, Dr. Granville, or Dr. Copeland, or the Bolt Court Medical Society, deny the truth of this remark? The reason Dr. Johnson has given for preferring *abuse* to commendation in *some* journals, seems to convey the idea, that he has found commendation expensive. The charge is certainly a serious one; but coming from such a scribbler, it is unworthy of notice. The conductors of journals, whose names we have noticed above, are incapable of being influenced by mercenary views. We advise the doctor, if he cannot give up the book-making trade till his mind is sobered by experience, to employ his scissars more than his pen; for his friends, Drs. Dickinson, Ferguson, and Flemming, and Messrs. Waller, Bampffield, and others, must feel degraded by seeing their opinions mixed up with such trash.

ON MEDICAL ABUSES—by Dr. Dods, of Worcester.—We beg Dr. Dods to accept our thanks for the favour of his long letter, and at the same time our apologies for the copious omissions we have made. The *length alone* of Dr. Dods' letter must have

precluded our entire insertion of it, occupying, as it would have done, a greater space than the necessary miscellaneous nature of our work allows to *individual* articles; and, as the Doctor's communication contains much of a personal nature betwixt himself and certain medical reviewers, we conceived we might omit so much of the letter, without offence to Dr. Dods, without detriment to his subject, and without lessening the *general* and *popular* interest of his communication.

"It is an undoubted fact," says Dr. Dods, "that all controversies and candid criticisms are food for the human mind, and are ultimately beneficial to the public, and tend to the advancement of medical science. When I presumed to lay before the public my observations on the writings of others, I naturally expected to be criticised in return. Several periodical publications have, however, approved much of my various writings, and even the critique of 'The London Medical and Physical Journal,' may, on the whole, be deemed much in my favour.

"Inflammation of the peritoneum," says Dr. Dods, "often occurs in women after delivery, and is occasioned by the same causes which occasions uterine inflammation. In January last, a surgeon-apothecary of this city, who has been in practice more than thirty years, had two of his patients, in one week, die of diseases of the puerperal state. The one, being a poor woman, had no consultation. The other was rich, and had a consultation. Now, which of these two unfortunate females had the *best chance* of recovery? A superficial and unreflecting observer will immediately assert, that it was the one who had the consultation. Let us then examine the merits of this, for it is of a vital importance to the public, that it should be explained. It appears, this surgeon-apothecary and accoucheur, together with six or seven others of the same class, pronounced, in the Worcester newspapers, in the year 1805, themselves incapable to conduct the treatment of diseases in their complex state; but that they were to have the management of them only in the first instance, when they were supposed to be simple; and on their becoming dangerous, or were made so, a physician or a surgeon, as the case may be medical or surgical, was to be consulted, and that they were to decide when this was necessary, although, from their own declaration, they could not recognize the nature of the disease, and its various stages. But in this case, above alluded to, when surgical assistance and decisive measures were really necessary, this surgeon-apothecary neglected to consult any one; and after delivery, no consultation was held, until a few hours before the patient expired. The physician (who was the same learned Doctor as alluded to in the foregoing case of inflammation of the bowels) declared that he was called in too late! Of what use then was this consultation? Many people declaimed loudly against the accoucheur; but, to judge correctly on the subject, let them reflect that, supposing this physician had been called in sooner, what service could he have rendered, when it is well known that he has no *practical* knowledge of diseases of the puerperal or child-bed state, his information being merely theoretical? He may

probably have read of them, and he may talk of them with much volubility; for with copiousness of speech, the learned Doctor is said to be at least profusely, if not profoundly gifted; but at the bed-side of the patient, he could not, for want of practical knowledge, distinguish one disease from another, or trace their rise and progress; was he therefore not a very unfit person to be consulted on such a serious occasion? I positively assert, that those physicians not practically informed on obstetric and all other diseases, are a most serious injury to the public. Had a chiro-physician (or physician practically acquainted with the different branches of the profession) been consulted in this case, he would have advised, and given assistance at the proper period; and, after the accouchement, he would have promptly and judiciously applied such remedies as would have subdued any disease on its first appearance. I know, from extensive experience, that in this way a great deal of good might be done for the public; and am confident, that deaths, from either child-bed fevers, inflammations, &c. would be extremely rare, were they properly and ably treated. But truly unfortunate for the community at large must it ever be, when popular opinion does not encourage medical men to make themselves sufficiently acquainted with the different branches of the medical art; but how much more must it be, when the higher classes of society in *England* absolutely discountenance it, and a medical conspiracy is immediately formed against any practitioner who may venture to express a wish, that the members of the profession would learn to have recourse to their own energies under circumstances of difficulty, and thus act on scientific and practical principles? The present system must however be considered, by every thinking person, disgraceful, as it converts the profession into one of the most extraordinary of the inhuman traffics; and that this system should by many be so strenuously supported, is truly degrading to the boasted reasoning powers of mankind. I would therefore most earnestly recommend, particularly to those ladies and gentlemen who so laudably exert themselves on all humane occasions, to thoroughly investigate these most important matters, and not allow themselves to be any longer deceived.

“ Dr. W. Hutchinson, and Dr. Uwins, leading Editor of the *London Medical Repository*, both men of great and profound erudition, are not practically acquainted with the obstetric art; and the latter gentleman, a few months back, candidly acknowledged his incompetency to efficiently review a late publication on this branch of the profession, in consequence of his *defect of practical knowledge*. At page 164-5 of the *Physician's Guide*, I have endeavoured to call the attention of the British public to a principal cause of mortality among the young of the human species, which is a branch of medical practice that has been sadly neglected; and that we are far behind our continental neighbours in the knowledge and treatment of infantile diseases, are facts too well known to admit of any contradiction. Many of those diseases, which are apt to cause *sudden* death of the aged, or of those past the meridian of life, have likewise been noticed. As to the necessity of every medical man being *practically* conversant with the different branches

of the profession, I may observe, that Professor Duncan, in his *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, recommends that surgeons should make themselves sufficiently acquainted with the nature and treatment of what are technically called medical diseases, as these occur in nineteen cases out of twenty; and I can aver, that nine surgical cases out of ten may be cured, not by the use of the knife or plasters, but by constitutional means; while Dr. James Johnson, in his *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, says, 'that to be a good surgeon, he must be a good physician;' and the Editors of the *Gazette of Health* assert, that physicians, without a practical knowledge of every branch of the profession, must be theorists. A case occurred some time ago, about a mile from Worcester, where, after the patient had been bled in the arm, inflammation, from some accident, ensued. The surgeon-apothecary applied his lotions, &c., but the disease advanced; and when constitutional derangement took place, he knew not how to proceed, because this, according to the present system, and which I am labouring to pull down, and to build up a better, belonged not to his department. A physician, not the same as before alluded to, was then called in, who prescribed saline draughts, &c. to subdue the fever, 'capillary debility,' or something else. The inflammation, and now the suppurative process, however, advanced rapidly, and the two gentlemen were again at a stand-still. They were again out of their element. They knew not what to do. Gangrene made its appearance, and a manuductor, or operative surgeon, was hastily sent for. The apparatus, knives, scalpels, &c. being all properly adjusted, a bold attack was made (when the patient was absolutely moribund or dying) upon the poor offending mortified arm!! Need it be said, or can it be supposed otherwise, that in a few hours afterwards the patient died. Will any sane man say, that this useful and worthy character (for so he was) had a fair chance for life?

"In the cure of fevers, some authors seem to rely almost entirely on blood-letting, while others depend solely on cathartics, and even those of the saline kind. In visceral inflammations, especially of the stomach and bowels, or of organic affections of the rectum, pp. 98, 226, &c., I have strongly enforced, for reasons there given, the necessity of avoiding active and stimulating purgatives; and I have demonstrated the impropriety of prescribing irritating cathartics in inflammation of the bowels; but in sanguineous determination to the head, (unaccompanied with these diseases) they should never be neglected; and I may further remark, that inflammatory affections of the brain have, of late, not only been very general, but have often so much assumed that character which has been termed typhoid, as to confirm my previous assumption, respecting the identity of phrenitis and fever. In such cases, cathartics, elaterium, and aloes, for instance, exhibited in an early stage of the disease, particularly immediately after bleeding, prove exceedingly useful. *An experienced physician having determined upon purging his patient, feels it a subject of momentous import, in forming his judgment of the best, safest, and most efficient means to effect it; and in doing so, he has a variety of circumstances to take into*

consideration; such as the age, sex, constitution, present state of strength or weakness of the patient, the nature and state of the disease, and, lastly, the peculiar properties of cathartic remedies; and, according to his selection and combination of the latter, so will his remedy be successful or injurious.*" Under the head of cathartics, I have therefore distinguished their various classes, according to the influence they exercise upon particular parts of the alimentary tube, the peculiar nature of such influence, and the effect upon the system at large. I agree with Mr. Scott, that *'the quantity of such drugs is really generally of less moment than the quality; and mischief is, upon the whole, less likely to occur from error, with regard to the former, than the latter, which happens in consequence of the different actions excited in the body, by the various kinds of cathartic medicines not being understood by those who undertake to administer them.'* For example, elaterium, as before stated, proves a most valuable medicine, because it not merely acts as a cathartic, but by pervading the whole system with its influence, induces that condition by which the febrile irritation is suspended, and frequently completely subdued. This drug, and it is a practical remark of much consequence, administered in small doses, will often check the course of those irritable movements which terminate, if not interrupted, in the second stage of hydrocephalus, or water on the brain. Again: in those states of the stomach and bowels which are in, or approach to, an inflammatory character, aloes would prove injurious; but as the action of this medicine, as observed by Mr. Scott, (*"independent of its having a cathartic effect"*), produces a determination of NERVOUS energy to the bowels, and must thence be of considerable service in diseases of accumulated excitability of the brain, both from its office as a purgative, and its quality of deriving sensorial influence to the intestines, of course diminishing it in the head." For instance, several cases of congestion of the brain, connected with nervous irritation and weakness, have lately come under my observation, in which the united operations of diminishing and restoring, have been of most unequivocal service. I recently attended a young gentleman who had palpitation of the heart, general arterial excitement, an over-powering congestion of the brain, considerable internal nervous fluttering, together with feelings of debility in the lower extremities, proceeding from sensorial oppression, and this latter originally from deranged sensibility and action. Under my treatment, blood was taken from his arm, he was cupped between the shoulders, and he took stimulating purgatives. A blister was then applied to the nape of the neck. Another medical man, who attended the patient, insinuated, but not in my presence, that he could see no reason for taking away blood, and afterwards attributed the patient's recovery to the effect of the blister!!

* See Observations "on the Peculiar Properties of Purgative Medicines, by Mr. Scott, Surgeon," p. 57, of Vol. VII. of the Gazette of Health.

"The attention of systematics to the pathology of the larynx and trachea, has not at present been sufficiently exercised; and the affections of these most important parts of organization, which are frequent in their occurrence, unless the greatest care be taken, may be confounded with pulmonary and consumptive maladies. Two circumstances are requisite for the production of genuine phthisis, or true consumption of the lungs. 1stly, a predisposition in the lungs to the tubercular action; and, 2dly, the concurrence of an incidental cause to rouse that action. The mere removal of the occasion, or exciting causes of pulmonary consumption, has frequently been misconceived, for the actual cure of that disease. Were I even to attempt to enumerate, as direct recoveries from consumption, the many instances in which it has been adverted by the removing of the exciting causes, it may seem almost past belief; yet, even in the incipient phthisis, we may frequently fail in checking its progress, when the real tubercular action has been developed. However great the difficulty, as this statement shews, in curing phthisis may be, when once it has taken root and begun to spread in the lungs, it still proves, that threatened attacks of this very formidable malady may often be averted by seasonable care and appropriate measures. We shall frequently find, by looking carefully into the history of those cases, which come to our notice, that the symptoms of pulmonary consumption are often preceded by those of some near or remote local irritation, or by tokens of breaking up in the general health, from various causes. The prevention of phthisis, however, is generally within the power of remedials, when it is preceded by either of these conditions, provided advice be obtained early; but it too often happens, from the patient's delaying it, that when the physician is first consulted, the structure of the lungs unfortunately is disorganized. Patients are certainly very careless about themselves at the commencement of those chronic diseases, under which they are enabled to perform their usual offices; and they generally flatter themselves, that as long as they can walk about with some degree of ease, all is safe, when the disorder is actually day after day destroying their very vitals. No cough, more especially if it be considered trifling or slight by the patient, should be permitted to exist, without great attention from the first, as it is frequently the short tickling cough that ushers in the assemblage of symptoms, by which consumption of the lungs is finally excited. It should be observed, that in order to clear the subject more effectually from obscurity, that four complaints may be mistaken for the tubercular phthisis, should they appear in their least complicated form; and these complaints are, the chronic inflammation of the bronchia, ulcerations in the trachea, chronic inflammation of the pleura, and the chronic and simple inflammation of some part of the lungs themselves. The discriminating marks between real and pseudo consumption, have, therefore, always been somewhat largely entered into; and the treatment pointed out for those lingering and internal complaints, threatening or approaching to consumption of the lungs, is, I may venture to assert, the most effectual of any that has hitherto been brought out in this, or, indeed, any other country;

and very many, particularly the China and the glove manufacturers of this city, who are extremely liable to these diseases, most gratefully testify and acknowledge its efficacy. I may further assert, what very few practitioners seem to be aware of, that blood-letting may be either sedative or stimulant, according to the manner in which it is employed. In my own general practice, I can so modify this remedy, as to cause it to produce very opposite curative processes; and much of the good heretofore attributed to depletion, in a direct manner, may with propriety be ascribed to its indirect agency. The subduction even of inflammation, is not so simple a process as is generally supposed, and is effected, in some degree, by an impulse given to the absorbents; so that when phlebotomy is had recourse to, particularly in complaints noted by any defect of power, the principle which I have adverted to, must be considered as decidedly operative.

"Since writing the above, I have been requested to visit a patient, aged 41, who has been attended for four or five months by a surgeon-apothecary; and about six weeks ago, when he was in the last stage of pulmonary consumption, having for a long time before been expectorating large quantities of pus, he consulted a 'physician extraordinary,' who recommended the patient to be bled, and left orders for the surgeon-apothecary to take away as much blood as the pulse would bear! Near a pint of blood was abstracted, *secundum artem*, from a vein in the arm, and in four days after, when the extraordinary physician called, he requested to know how the patient stood the bleeding, and what was the nature or appearance of the blood! He was informed that Mr. — said that the state of the pulse was such, that more blood might have been taken away, but that it was not inflammatory. The learned physician extraordinary ordered another copious bleeding, which was scrupulously obeyed, as if the surgeon-apothecary was determined not only to shew that he was a compliant and faithful disciple, but that to let out blood was both to let and *shut out* the disorder; but great debility and emaciation ensued, and the patient sunk under (we must suppose) the disease. Now, if the surgeon-apothecary knew not when bleeding was necessary, how was it possible that he should know what quantity of blood to take away? Some people may perhaps say, that the physician should have written down the quantity in his prescription; but this is to contend for another fallacious assumption, denoting an erroneous way of thinking, respecting the principles of morbid manifestation, and of restorative indications; because blood cannot be extracted by fixed or specified measure, but by its peculiar influence and effects on the disease, and the patient's constitutional or accidental condition. We cannot expect mathematical accuracy in a conjectural art like ours; and to practise satisfactorily, and propound dogmatia, are very different affairs. But, besides this, it is clear that these gentlemen were not proceeding upon scientific and curative principles.

"'Tis very true, however, that it is not so easy as might, at first sight appear, to proportion the sanguineous depletion, and to make the diet exactly suitable to the state of the constitution. If the

depletion be too great, or the diet not sufficiently nutritious, the nervous irritation and the vascular excitability will be increased; if the latter be too nutritious, the already commencing plenitude may be dangerously augmented; the only safe course therefore which can be pursued is between these two extremes; and this line of practice, which is *new* to *routine* physicians, is evidently beyond their skill and judgment; and even physicians of great experience and observation, may not follow it, because it is diametrically opposite to that which, although uniformly unsuccessful, has been for many years employed.

"I shall now observe a different case. Mr. —, aged thirty-five, had been, for several years, afflicted with a winter cough, and spitting, for which he had taken the advice of several medical gentlemen in London. This winter, his cough, &c. again returned, which he neglected for a length of time, until he became alarmed, in consequence of a vessel in the lungs giving way, during coughing, and he immediately sought the advice of a "leading" surgeon of this city, who pronounced the disease pulmonary consumption; and as nothing but palliatives, he said, could be prescribed, he resigned over the patient to the care of a surgeon-apothecary, who, he was sure, would pay every attention necessary for their administration. The brother of the patient, however, not satisfied, sent his son to me, to request that I would give my attendance, and state if I thought any thing more could be done to combat the approaches of death. I visited the patient accordingly; and after minutely investigating the nature of the disease, and finding, from the symptoms and appearances of the expectoration, that it was not purulent, that the vascular system was not only full, but loaded, and that the nervous system was not much impaired, I entertained very favourable hopes of the patient's recovery. I took near a pint of blood from the arm, ordered a laxative medicine, and an antiphlogistic regimen: the celerity of the pulse, which beating 112 strokes in a minute, was but little retarded by the loss of this quantity of blood. The next day, the blood was found deeply cupped, and the surface covered with the buffy or inflammatory crust, and a pint more was abstracted. This bleeding subdued considerably the frequency and hardness of the pulse; and such indeed was its decided effect, in taking off the determination of blood to the lungs, and of the irritation of the whole system, as to snatch the patient from impending consumption, towards which he was rapidly verging. In such a case, to rely on expectorants, or sedatives, such as colchicum, digitalis, &c., would not only have been a serious loss of time, but must have culpably risked the life of the patient. The anti-phlogistic regimen was continued, and smaller quantities of blood were taken away occasionally: in a few weeks the patient was perfectly recovered. It is important to mark these cases, as others of a similar nature are of very frequent occurrence. In the latter, it was absolutely necessary to instantly relieve a most important organ from being overwhelmed by the increased fulness and velocity of the circulation; but in the former case, had I been consulted early enough, I would have acted very differently, and proceeded upon

the plan of sanguification, or making of blood, which exhibits the *modus operandi* of blood-letting in a new and important light, as I have before mentioned. Let, therefore, practitioners keep in mind the *various* objects of bleeding, and not indiscriminately unsheath the lancet. Were my present limits to admit, I could record many interesting and important cases of strumous consumption of the lungs, accompanied with external ulcers. To the next generation, however, it will appear a curious and most inconsistent phenomenon in the history of medicine, to be informed that scrofulous ulcers of the lungs are, in the present day, called medical, while scrofulous ulcers of the neck, foot, or hand, are termed surgical, and that these are placed under different classes of professional men, the one to treat the internal, and the other the external, although they proceed, in both instances, from the same essence—a vitiated habit of body, and there is no other way of curing either but by mending the whole constitution.”

CHEMICAL KNOWLEDGE OF A PHYSICIAN.—SIRS,—When I apprise you that you are indebted to my influence for the fine black ink with which you write your interesting leading articles, I think you will not deny me a corner in one of your columns.

I am descended from a very ancient family, and can satisfactorily prove to you, that my ancestors, Misy, Joy, and Calcanthum, were well known, even in the days of Pliny, who makes honourable mention of them, Lib. xxx. c. 12.

Judge, then, of my feelings at being most scurvily misrepresented at the late C——d Assizes, by a mushroom *physician of consummate medical education* and literary *acquirements*. I declare, Sir, I should have felt great surprise and indignation if a mere country *drug dealer*, or *apothecary's apprentice* had presumed to treat me with such indignity; but, to crown all, up starts a superannuated teacher of chemistry, who most gratuitously (and disinterestedly, of course) endeavours to screen his *quondam pupil* from the public contempt which he merits, and appears determined also to prove, that as “ignorance is bliss, ’twere folly to be wise;” for he compliments him upon his want of knowledge in good round set terms, while he artfully glides over the injuries I am likely to experience from his protégé’s *scientific modes of thinking*. But the fact is, sir, the young *philosopher*, being *entirely ignorant* of my *genealogy* and *properties*, took it into his most sapient noddle to form a hasty opinion of me from my name, and described me, *hap hazard*, as a most dangerous personage. Had he been acquainted with the nature of my *constitution* and *complexion*—had he studied *substances* as well as *mere names*, he could not have been guilty of so gross an error as to have confused me with any of the *Copper family*, and least of all, with that odious filthy creature, *Verdigris*, whom every scullion and kitchen-maid abhor. I looked him full in the face, but he was too much for me. Indeed, when I have patience to reflect, I think he must have intended to insult me; and yet this would have been combining ingratitude with rudeness; for I have put, I may safely say, some hundreds of pounds into his father’s pocket, and always, before the late trial, had every reason to consider myself a parti-

cular favourite with the old gentleman, though I never expected any thing from him in his will.

But to return from this digression to the *subject in question*, I must state to you, that many years ago some friends, out of respect to my great utility, took particular pains to distinguish me and guard my reputation, by compelling my namesakes to assume characteristic appellations; hence the distinct families of *White* and *Blue Copperas*: the latter, however, among *medical* and *non-medical philosophers*, assumed the title of *Blue Vitriol*, or *Blue Stone*, while the former is known as *White Vitriol*. Those whose acquirements are more purely *scientific* than *useful*, may prefer calling them solely by their *accepted* names of sulphate of copper and sulphate of zinc. It is true, common jurymen may occasionally be somewhat puzzled to comprehend the meaning of these terms; but this may be easily remedied by calling a plain druggist, (from all *consummate physicians* deliver me), who would readily explain that sulphate of copper was not made from iron.

The fact is, and I do not blush to own it, that I was always, even from my infancy, of a *greenish hue*; and I verily believe I have fretted myself a shade or two darker, (since the imputation thrown upon my character,) in order to distinguish myself still more. The learned Doctor will have cause to remember me, for I shall look at him in future with a very green eye; and make no doubt I shall be able, when we occasionally meet, by the sternness of my visage to raise up something in his countenance like an apology for a blush.

In taking my leave of the *subject in question*, I must not omit to return my sincere thanks to the honest chemist who so clearly and ably described my composition and properties: but for him and the learned counsel who took me up in his hand, and supported me while exposed to the gaze of the whole court, I make no doubt I should have been sentenced to a temporary association with those noxious and deadly characters, Sublimate and Arsenic, I beg their pardons, I should have used their *accepted names* of Bi-chloride of Mercury and Arsenious Acid.

Wishing, Mr. Editor, that your ink may never grow thick in your stand, or mothery in your bottle,

Chelmsford,

I remain, your indelible friend,

April First, 1822.

COPPERAS.

DISLOCATION OF A JOINT.—In consequence of having very briefly noticed a case of dislocation of a joint, which was reduced many years after the accident, the grandmother of the patient has sent us the following particulars, by which it appears that we were not correct in representing it as a case of dislocation:—“In the year 1806, my grand-daughter, Caroline Burgot, of 13, Crow-street, Westminster, then between three and four years of age, fell down whilst running in St. James’s park. The child felt much pain in her knees immediately after the accident; but, nevertheless, with the assistance of her companions, she was able to walk home, which was only a short distance from the spot where she fell. In about three weeks after, the knee having swelled to such a degree as to render her incapable of walking without great pain and inconve-

nience, I considered it necessary to have recourse to professional advice, and accordingly called in the assistance of Mr. M——, of the Strand. This gentleman gave the child some powders, and directed some external applications to the knee. This course of treatment was continued as long as the child remained under the care of Mr. M——, which was a considerable time; but I do not recollect the exact period. After Mr. M——, my grand-daughter was attended by several other medical gentlemen, all of whom seemed to consider her case as hopeless; and the result of their opinions and treatment afforded no other prospect, than that she would continue lame all her life. Under these circumstances, finding that the means hitherto adopted had failed to produce the desired effect, I resolved to place the invalid in St. George's hospital. Here she was attended by Mr. B——, who applied blisters constantly to her knee, together with other applications. Soon after my grandchild entered the hospital, the diseased limb was affected with the *St. Anthony's fire*. The whole extremity became suddenly swelled to a great size, and in this state it was lanced just above the instep. An abscess also formed over the ankle joint, which broke. When Caroline came out of the hospital, her general health was bad; and her limb was greatly emaciated, and so weak, that she could not put it to the ground. From this period her general health improved, but the disease in her knee-joint continued to increase. In this state the child remained to April 3, 1821, when I placed her under the care of Mr. Sumner. From the date of the accident up to this time, (1821), I never expected that my grand-child would derive much benefit from any mode of treatment, still less that she would recover the use of her limb. Contrary to my expectation, however, owing to the skilful treatment of Mr. S——, to whom I can never sufficiently express my gratitude, my child's lameness is almost entirely removed; the only difference between the once-diseased limb and the other, being, that the former is not quite so strong. My grand-child is now able, in her daily exercise, to walk at least six miles; and she is confident that, if necessary, she could walk considerably further without assistance."

In our next number we intend to give the plan of treatment which has proved so successful in the practice of Mr. Sumner, in cases of ankylosed and other diseased joints, and which originated with that gentleman. It is certainly a very important improvement on that recommended by Hunter, which we have noticed in an early number.

CROUP, AND INFLAMMATION OF THE LUNGS.—The following cases of these diseases, which lately occurred in the practice of Mr. Steward, a respectable surgeon of London, confirm the very favourable reports of several eminent practitioners, of the efficacy of warm air applied to the surface of the body by means of the apparatus termed the Sudatory, invented by the scientific Mr. La Beaume:—

"About the middle of December, 1821, I was sent for in great haste to see a child reported to be in a state of great danger. When

I arrived at the lady's house, I found the little sufferer, who was about five years of age, in the greatest agony from a disease termed croup. Upon enquiry, I was informed that patient had caught a violent cold, of which this was the result. I immediately desired eight leeches to be applied to the throat, after which a blistering plaister from ear to ear. I also prescribed large doses of calomel, with ipecacuanha, as a solution of the tartarised antimony, which was administered in small doses till nausea was freely excited. This plan of treatment I had flattered myself would have proved effectual; and, indeed, for three days, the child certainly appeared getting better. On the fourth day, however, the symptoms suddenly became much aggravated; great difficulty of breathing, excessive thirst, with the peculiar characteristic sound in coughing and speaking, an uneasy sense of heat over the whole body, a continual inclination to change from place to place, great restlessness, and frequency of pulse, with a continual inclination of throwing the head back in the agony of attempting to escape suffocation. In this most distressing state I felt exceedingly anxious to try the effects of the *portable sudatory*; and having dispatched a messenger to Mr. La Beaume, of Southampton-row, requesting his immediate attendance, I accompanied that gentleman to see its effects; and to whose kind and prompt exertions I cannot sufficiently do justice, conscious how much the public is indebted to him for the very many benefits, and even lives, which have been saved by his efficacious remedies. As soon as we arrived, the child being placed in the bed, I observed with much satisfaction, in about twelve minutes after Mr. La Beaume had commenced the operation, a sensible moisture upon her legs and feet. Within a few minutes succeeding, on feeling the pulse, I found the upper extremities quite damp; and in less than twenty minutes, a copious perspiration was produced. The pulse, which had hitherto been exceedingly irregular, became less frequent and soft, and the little sufferer, who, but a short interval before, was nearly *gasping her last*, sunk into quiet slumber, and continued, through the night, to breathe easily. This *single operation* of the sudatory prevented any recurrence of those frightful symptoms, and the patient, in a very few days, perfectly recovered.

"In consequence of the result of this trial of the sudatory, I again requested the attendance of Mr. La Beaume in another case, in which I judged its application necessary. This occurred soon after the foregoing case, when attending a lady's child with *inflammation of the lungs*, for several days, without obtaining much advantage; and finding that respiration became more laborious, the extremities cold, and the child apparently sinking fast, I determined upon giving the sudatory another trial. In this case, the circulation had *nearly ceased*, and it was upwards of half an hour from the commencement of the operation, before warmth or animation was excited. A further continuance of this remedy however *succeeded*, when *no relief* was expected. In about an hour the circulation was restored, a gentle perspiration was produced about the stomach and bowels; and the little sufferer, soon after Mr. La Beaume's departure, fell fast asleep: a copious perspiration followed, which was kept up during

the night and the greater part of the following day; and very shortly after, the child was restored to perfect health."

IODINE.—Mr. Brande, in a late lecture on this article, stated, that its beneficial effect on scrofula is as decisive as that of mercury on syphilis. The specific operation of the remedy on wen induced us to give it a trial in scrofula, and the first report of its anti-scrofulous property was made by us. We are, therefore, desirous that its reputation may not suffer, by employing an inferior kind, with which we find a wholesale druggist is supplying practitioners in the country. This inferior sort contains much matter insoluble in alcohol, whereas, the whole of the *true* is perfectly soluble in that menstruum. We procured the iodine from Germany, that it may have a fair trial in this country, and we recommend our medical friends to procure it at the Medical Hall. A correspondent informs us that he has administered the tincture, in the dose of twenty drops twice a day, in a glass of decoction of the marshmallow root, in a case of incipient consumption, in a scrofulous subject, with complete success. In a few days it effectually allayed cough, and removed the oppression of the chest, without any auxiliary remedy.

TEA.—In our Eighteenth Number, p. 542, we have made some remarks on the chemical properties of the leaves of the oriental shrub imported in this country, under the name of *tea*; and in consequence of their injurious effects on the stomach and nervous system, we have there recommended mixtures of British herbs as a substitute for tea and coffee for breakfast, and an evening repast. An infusion of the following composition, lately recommended by an eminent physician of Edinburgh, we have since found more pleasant to the palate, and more salubrious as an article of diet, than either of the compositions of herbs. It is an excellent nervous stomachic, and in cases of indigestion, or what is termed "bilious affections," arising either from debility or nervous irritability, it has proved highly beneficial, after stomachic bitters, with and without mercury, had entirely failed. It has likewise this important advantage over tonic medicines, and the foreign tea and coffee, that its long continued use will not injure the stomach; but, on the contrary, by keeping up healthy digestion, and by quieting the nerves, is likely to prevent the organic diseases of the stomach, which of late years have apparently increased in Europe.

Take of the Heels of the unfolded Petals of the Red Rose, dried, five parts;

Rosemary Leaves, ditto, one ditto;

Balm Ditto, ditto, two ditto.—Mix.

A dessert-spoonful of this composition is sufficient for half a pint of infusion. It is made in the same manner as tea, with sugar and cream, or milk. This composition is sold at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, at two shillings and nine-pence a pound;—a pound will go as far as two pounds of tea.

We continue to receive very favourable reports of the ground *sassafras* nut as a substitute for cocoa, coffee, and tea, for breakfast and supper. It is not only nutritious, but a more efficacious corrector of the habit, in cases of eruption of the skin and scrofula, than the

sassafras wood, or the compound decoction of sarsaparilla. As a powerful preventive of cutaneous affections, it is particularly valuable at this period of the year. It is also an excellent article of diet for rheumatic, gouty, and asthmatic invalids. The price of this article has lately been reduced from 6s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. a pound.

SEIDLITZ POWDERS.—We have received from Dr. Souchet, of Cleve, a quantity of the saline products of the Seidlitz water, not one of which is to be found in the powders, sold under the name of Seidlitz powders in this country, although the proprietors of most of them positively assert, that solutions of them in water possess all the medicinal virtues of the much esteemed Seidlitz spring in Germany. The “medicinal virtues of that justly celebrated spring,” observes Dr. Souchet, “reside in the sulphate and the muriate of magnesia, neither of which are to be found in the powders puffed off in London, under ‘*Royal protection*.’” He represents them as a chemical toy to amuse poor credulous John Bull!! The spurious powder distends the stomach and bowels with gas, and its aperient effects are never satisfactory, (keeping up an unpleasant irritation in the bowels, without sufficiently unloading them). The true powder is equally pleasant to the palate, always operates sufficiently on the intestinal canal, and leaves the stomach in an improved state. It is also considerably cheaper than the English preparations. Dissolved in water, it forms a very pleasant cooling aperient draught, containing all the medicinal salts of the Seidlitz spring, with the addition of the tartaric acid and carbonate of soda, which Dr. Souchet has added for the purpose of producing an agreeable degree of effervescence. The Seidlitz salts may be obtained with or without this addition, at a cheaper rate than the Cheltenham salts, to which, we have no hesitation in asserting, they will be found very superior as an alterative purgative, in cases of inflammatory affections of the skin, constitutional costiveness, and those affections which are termed bilious.

INSTANTANEOUS LIGHT.—In a late number, we gave a receipt for making the matches of oxy-muriate of potass, which, on being touched with the sulphuric acid, produced a sufficient degree of fire to light a candle. A chemist of Paris has made a considerable improvement in those matches, by slightly covering the end of the match, before the oxy-muriate of potass is applied with sulphur, to ensure the communication of the fire to the wooden part. A great objection to those made in England, is the ceasing of the flame on the oxy-muriate being consumed, and thereby not affording time for lighting a candle. The Parisian chemist has made a simple apparatus for keeping the matches and sulphuric acid, so as to render them handy for lighting a candle in the dark, and for preventing an accident. He has sent a considerable quantity of the cases to the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, for the purpose of supplying the faculty, and others, with them, at the low price of a franc (10d.) each. The utility of this simple contrivance, in cases of sudden attacks of disease, accidents, &c., must appear obvious to our readers.

STEEL DEARER THAN GOLD.—A remarkable instance of

increased value produced by the manufacturing processes which result from our improved knowledge and cultivation of the arts and sciences, is found in the operations of the artist upon iron; for it appears that it may be made three hundred times dearer than gold. Six steel-wire springs for watch pendulums, weigh only *one grain*, and cost 7s 6d each, equal, therefore, to 2*l.* 5s.!! *One grain of gold costs 2d. !!*

THE GRASSHOPPER.—A short time after the grasshopper appears in its last stage of perfection, it spreads over the meadows, which it fills with its chirping strains, which are the calls of the male inviting the female to love. Some naturalists are of opinion that the notes of the grasshopper are produced by the rubbing the two hind legs of the animal against each other. M. de Reamur and Linnæus, who have minutely examined these insects, assert, they derive their vocal powers from a very different source. On examining the male, his body has been found provided with a small hole below the insertion of each wing, delicately constructed with organs of sound within, and covered over, externally, with a fine transparent membrane. It is by means of these organs, which, in completeness and delicacy of their structure, may vie with those of the human voice, that some species of the grasshopper produce their melody.

INSECT INHABITANTS OF A CARNATION.—Sir John Hill says, that led by the fragrance of a carnation, to bring it close to his organ of smell, his ear was attacked by an extremely soft but agreeable murmuring sound: It was easy to discover that some small animal within the covert must be the musician, and that the noise must come from some little body, suited to produce it. He distended the lower part of the flower, and placing it in a full light, discovered, by means of his apparatus, troops of insects frisking and capering with wild jollity among the narrow pedestals that support its leaves. He admired at leisure their elegant limbs, their velvet shoulders, their backs vieing with the empyreum in its blue, and their eyes, each forming a thousand others, outglittering the flame on a brilliant. Here were the perfumed groves, the more than myrtle shades of the poet's fancy realized: the happy inhabitants, in the triumph of their little hearts, skipped after one another from stem to stem, among the pointed trees, or winged their short flight to the close shadows of some broader leaf, to revel undisturbed in the height of felicity.

GIGANTIC FLOWER.—Suddenly falling upon a description published by the Linnæan Society, of an extraordinary vegetable discovered in Sumatra, we fancied we had taken up Gulliver's Travels, but the respectable names coupled with the narrative, as well as the well-known and respected character of the vehicle of its publication, soon warned us of its claim to veracity. Dr. Arnold, whilst accompanying Sir Stamford Raffles in exploring the interior of the islands of Sumatra, was called by the guide to witness a very singular object; a flower such as no botanist ever saw or heard of: it was in beautiful bloom, and measured *nine feet* in circumference! We may now give credit to the account of the enormous nest seen by

Cook, the gigantic bird, and the quill that admitted a man's hand. Who knows but that the ball on St. Paul's may one day be replaced by a *larger* object from nature, the *Roe's Egg*?

HUMAN LIFE ESTIMATED BY PULSATION.—An ingenious author asserts that the length of a man's life may be estimated by the number of pulsations which he has strength to perform. Thus, allowing seventy years for the common age of man, and sixty pulses in a minute for the common measure of pulses in a temperate person, the number of pulses in his whole life would amount to 2,207,520,000; but, if, by intemperance, he forces his blood into a more rapid motion, so as to give seventy-five pulses in a minute, the same number of pulses would be completed in fifty-six years, consequently his life would be reduced fourteen years.

ADVANTAGES OF EARLY RISING.—The difference of rising every morning at six, and at eight, in the course of forty years, supposing a man to go to bed at the same time he otherwise would, amounts to twenty-nine thousand hours, or three years one hundred and twenty-days; so that it is the same as if ten years of life (a weighty consideration) were added, in which we could command eight hours every day, for the cultivation of our minds or the dispatch of business.

" Rise, light thy candle, see thy task begun
Ere redd'ning streaks proclaim the distant sun."

COMFORTS OF THE GOUT.—The physician Sydenham says of the gout, that he had it for thirty years, and *knew no cure for it*, but that three things were his consolation under it: first, that "it seldom attacks a fool; second, more seldom the poor; and third, that it was more incident to men of strong, than of weak constitution;"—thus, philosophy may afford some comfort, even in gout.

A FIRE AND WATER-PROOF CEMENT.—To half a pint of vinegar, add the same quantity of milk; separate the curd, and mix the whey with the whites of five eggs; beat it well together and sift into it a sufficient quantity of quick lime, to convert it to the consistency of a thick paste. Broken vessels, mended with this cement, never afterwards separate, for it resists the action of both fire and water.

DR. MONCEY'S METHOD OF TOOTH-DRAWING.—We have read that this eccentric physician's mode of extracting his own teeth, was by fastening a strong piece of catgut firmly round the affected tooth, whilst the other end was, by means of a strong knot, fastened to a perforated bullet, and with this bullet a pistol was charged, and when held, either pointing to the ground or to the sky, according to the circumstance of its being an upper or a lower tooth, by pulling the trigger the troublesome tooth took its flight with the bullet. It is also related, that a person, to indulge the doctor's whim, pretended to consent to have a tooth removed in this manner; and allowed him to fix the catgut round the tooth, and to put the bullet into the pistol: but conceiving this was going far enough, he exclaimed hastily, he had altered his mind. "But I

have not," said the doctor, firing the pistol, "And, sir, you are a *fool* and a coward for your pains."

FATAL CONSEQUENCE OF DRINKING NOYEAU.—

It is ever a painful duty we perform, to report the sacrifice of human existence, from whatever cause derived; but when the liability to such dreadful catastrophies is connected with any of our familiar habits of life, we are bounden, from the office we have imposed on ourselves as conservators of the public health, not simply to the narration of facts, but to all the collateral circumstances which elucidate the subject, so as to put the general reader in possession of such information, as removes the danger to which the want of knowledge of the subject necessarily subject us.

Our readers are of course aware, that it is a practice amongst many tradesmen, to keep a bottle of some liquor, either wine or spirits, behind the counter, for the purpose of regaling their customers. A shop-keeper in the country, in observing this custom, selected noyEAU for this purpose, which seems to have pleased the taste of his friends so well, that several regretted it was not stronger. The complaisant tradesman, realizing the fable of The Old Man and the Ass, by wishing to oblige every body, transmitted an order to the person who manufactured his noyEAU, that he would prepare him a certain quantity of *double the usual strength*. This was complied with, without either enquiries on one part, or explanation on the other. Shortly after the noyEAU had arrived, a lady visited the shop, who being an excellent customer, the tradesman was desirous of evincing his respect, and therefore presented her with the *first* glass of his improved cordial. The lady drank it, and in a few minutes afterwards fell on the floor, and expired. The terror of the poor man was heightened to a greater degree, by the observations of the bye-standers, who, remarking the coincidence of her death, and her taking the noyEAU, asserted, that he must have given her poison; he assured them it was "*nothing but noyEAU*" she had taken, and to convince them, as he conceived, of its harmless qualities, he seized the bottle, and, pouring out a glass of it, drank it in an agony of earnestness; when so rapid was the action of this potent poison, that the persons before him had not time to relapse from the attention which his conduct extorted, before they were assailed with the additional horror of witnessing the destruction of a second victim:—the poor man trembled, fell, and expired.

Our readers are doubtless aware, that Prussic acid is one of the most potent poisons in the vegetable kingdom; and it is to the presence of this principle in "noyEAU," "ratafia," "black cherry water," and other similar articles, that their flavour, as well as their pernicious qualities, is owing. The kernels of cherries, peaches, and apricots, as well as sweet and bitter almonds, contain Prussic acid; the bitter almond possesses it in a great degree. An infusion of peach leaves, and of laurel or nectarine leaves, is found to be a powerful and dangerous medicine, because it contains Prussic acid; in fine, it is possible, by the skill of the chemist, to obtain this acid in such a concentrated state, (from almonds, peach leaves, or any of the substance before enumerated) that a single drop *falling upon or*

touching the skin upon any part of the body, *destroys life* instantaneously; the moment the poison has touched the skin, the person falls dead, as though he had been killed with a stroke of lightning; but such a dangerous process is it to obtain Prussic acid in this state of purity, that few, if any, will incur the dreadful risque in preparing it; for should the finger of the operator but touch the matter he has prepared, he dies for his temerity. We believe Mr. H. C. Jennings, a gentleman well known as one of the most ingenious and philosophical experimentors of this country, has obtained it in a state equal, or nearly so, to this strength: the stopper of the bottle only applied to the nose of a large Newfoundland dog, produced instant death to the animal. But violent and dreadful as are the effects of this poison, it is nevertheless a most valuable medicine in all those diseases in which it is desirable to depress the vital powers; its mode of action, according to the opinion of Magendie, seems to be in lessening, suspending, or annihilating, (according to the quantity in which it is administered) the functions of *animal life*, without acting directly on those of nutritive or organic life. It is clear, that in diseases of vascular or nervous excitement, it checks the rapidity of the circulation, and diminishes irritability; it is perhaps our best and chiefest remedy in whooping-cough; and in consumption, if administered early, would no doubt prove to be our most valuable resort. In hæmorrhages, threatened abortion, painful menstruation, convulsions attending the eruptive stage of small-pox, and some irritative affections of the stomach, lungs, heart, and air tube, we have witnessed the most striking benefit. Our practice formerly was to administer it in the form of distilled laurel water; but, in order to render the dose of this powerful medicine positive, and to obviate the uncertainty complained of by medical men, in consequence of the variety of strength of the Prussic acid, as prepared and sold by various persons, we have fixed a mode of preparation in our laboratory, by which its strength is determined and unvarying; and to obviate either mistakes or apprehensions, from unacquaintance with its positive state, the labels on each viol, as sent from the Medical Hall, specify, that half a drop is the medium dose. It is to be regretted, that the College of Physicians have not, in their Pharmacopœia, given a formula for the preparation of Prussic acid. We think it was an instance of doubtful prudence, when they rejected the black cherry-stone water; fatal instances of its abuse had, it is true, occurred; they should have advised the legislature to prohibit persons from making cherry brandy, noyau, ratafie, or from flavouring custards with laurel leaves, or even from eating bitter almonds, for these have all occasioned fatal consequences from the same principle.

PRESERVATIVE AGAINST SCARLET FEVER.—Professor Hahnemann, twenty years ago, contended, from the observation he had made, that belladonna possessed the power of preserving from scarlet fever, those who took it; and Dr. Berendt, an Austrian physician, has lately given the practice an extensive trial, the issue of which is much in favour of Dr. Hahnemann's statements. He gave, morning and evening, a few drops, of a solution of three grains

of the extract of belladonna in an ounce of water, to 195 children exposed to the infection of scarlet fever, fourteen only of whom became infected with that disease, and in these the disease was extremely mild.

The scarlet fever raged epidemically in Copenhagen and throughout Denmark last year, and Professor Herboldt, physician to the principal hospital in Copenhagen, and one of its most eminent practitioners, employed this remedy as a preservative. He dissolved two grains of the extract in an ounce of water, and found that it answered the purpose of preserving several hundred children from the contagion. He found that the specific and well-known effects of this substance evinced themselves when the children took a dose of twenty drops, and he therefore limited it to fifteen. Dr. Herboldt finding that the medicine, when ordered in solution, was often neglected, directed the extract of belladonna to be formed into lozenges, with a sufficient quantity of chocolate; and of these, each of which contained 1-32d part of a grain of the extract, he administered from one to three every morning and evening, according to the age of the patient. Out of nearly one hundred families, in which he had occasion to use the belladonna, one only was attacked by the scarlet fever; and it is not certain whether the individuals of this family had not been infected previously to their taking the remedy. Dr. Herboldt thinks that the medicine does not act as a preservative, unless it be given long before the person is exposed to the contagion. The scarlet fever being at this time epidemic in the metropolis, and very extensively spreading in Westminster, we would advise the trial of the belladonna, as here recommended, particularly in families and schools.

MODE OF PRESERVING FRUIT.—The fruit, not quite ripe, is put into wide-necked bottles, which are placed in a copper of water nearly up to their mouths, and they are *lightly* corked; the water is then heated till it is very hot, *but does not scald*, and this heat is kept up for half an hour: the bottles are then taken out and immediately filled with boiling water to the very brim, carefully corked, wired, placed on their sides, and turned, at first every week, but afterwards seldomer, to prevent any part (in consequence of the bubble of air that forms in them) from getting dry, and thus becoming mouldy. Some attempt to preserve fruit, &c. without water, by heating the water-bath to boiling, and corking the bottles while in the boiling water; but this does not succeed so well unless the fruit is very green—and the water is at any rate useful to put into pies. Great quantities of cranberries are yearly brought from the northern countries, in casks, preserved in water. Plums, apricots, cherries, peaches, and other juicy fruits may be preserved in brandy, or other spirits; but they ought to be gathered before they are perfectly ripe, and soaked for some hours in very hard water, *or in alum water*, to make them firm. As the moisture of the fruit weakens the spirit, it ought to be strong; and five ounces of sugar should be added to each quart of it.

PRESCRIPTIONS FOR EYE-WATERS, EMBROCATIONS AND GARGLES.—Goulard's Eye-Water:—By J. S.

Take of Extract of Lead, ten drops,

Rose Water, six ounces.

Take of Extract of Lead, ten drops,

Spirit of Camphor, twenty drops,

Rose Water, half-a-pint.—Mix.

This latter is extremely useful in ophthalmia, attended with much inflammation.

Take of Opium, ten grains,

Camphor, six grains,

Boiling Water, twelve ounces.

Rub the opium and camphor with the boiling water, and strain. This collyrium abates the pain and irritation attendant on severe cases of inflammation of the eyes.

Take of White Vitriol, half a drachm,

Spirits of Camphor, one drachm,

Warm Water, two ounces,

Rose Water, four ounces.

Dissolve the vitriol in the warm water, and add the spirit of camphor and rose water. This is a useful collyrium in the chronic state of ophthalmia, or what is generally called weakness of the eyes after inflammation.

GARGLES.—For Thrush:—

Take of Borax, two drachms,

Honey, four drachms,

Rose Water, six ounces.—Mix.

Inflammatory Sore Throat :

Take of Nitre, two drachms,

Honey, four drachms,

Rose Water, six ounces.—Mix.

To be used frequently.—Or,

Take of Spirit of Salts, twenty drops,

Honey of Roses, half-an-ounce,

Water, four ounces.—Mix.

EMBROCATIONS.—For Chilblains :

Take of Alum, two drachms,

White Vitriol, two drachms,

Vinegar, four ounces,

Spirit of Wine, two ounces,

Water, half-a-pint.—Mix.

For Hooping Cough :

Take of Emetic Tarter, two drachms,

Boiling Water, two ounces,

Tincture of Cantharides, one drachm,

Oil of Wild Thyme, three drachms.—Mix.

A dessert-spoonful to be rubbed upon the chest every night and morning.

DEPILATORY.—A correspondent in Edinburgh informs us, that he has found the following composition to answer better than the advertised Depilatories for destroying superfluous hair :

Take of Fresh Lime Stone, 1 ounce;

Pure Potass, 1 drachm ;

Sulphuret of Potass, 1 drachm ;

To be reduced to a fine Powder, in a Wedgwood Mortar.—It is to be applied agreeably to the directions we have given in a late number, under the head of "Depilatory."

BLEACHING.—We understand that a very great improvement in the method of bleaching linen and yarn has lately been made by Mr. Crookshank, of Dublin. As far as we have been able to ascertain, its chief merit consists in disengaging the chlorine from the oxymuriate lime, by which ingenious process it is enabled to act with full force upon the cloth and yarn. Independently of a considerable saving in the quantity of bleaching liquor, by which the possibility of injuring the linen is prevented, this process combines some other very important advantages. It has already been tried on a considerable scale, and has met with full approbation of a gentleman of chemical celebrity. We are informed that Mr. Crookshank has submitted his discovery to the Linen Board, and proposed to exhibit its advantages by a course of experiments. We hope, therefore, that the process will shortly be made public, for the benefit of the trade.

VACCINATION FROM PUG DOGS.—Some children were taken the other day to a certain vaccine station, in Spring Gardens, for the purpose of being vaccinated; but the mother precipitately left the house, and returned without having fulfilled the object of her attendance. Upon asking what had caused such a precipitate retreat, she informed us, that "the gentleman was employed in taking the matter from two *pug dogs*, and she did not choose her children should be inoculated from *such gentry*!"

RARE SPECIMEN OF MEDICAL LITERATURE.—Some years ago, one of those respectable practitioners, *vulgarly* called "*quack Doctors*," induced a poor silly fellow to believe that he could cure his wife of consumption; but the unhappy patient soon got worse under his care, and death at length "*proved the Doctor an ass*." The husband, chagrined at being swindled out of his money, wrote an angry letter to *the Doctor*, demanding the fees he had paid him to be returned, the following is a faithful and literal copy of the answer:—

"Mr. Howard

"April 2nd 1807

"I undor Stand you wis for your Money Back My Attendants and Meadsons cums too dubel the Som & If youor Inpottents Anny mor by Sand Lett of thatening I shell Dew My Salf the Plastre of Serving you with Anaction Booth for Sum and for Damegges Dount you think you got a Curtary Fool to Dial with Now I giv you Notic the Furst Scandil I heor From you I will Spond 20 Gunais butt Ill Make anuxampil of you Dr. BRAHAM."

MILK.—The following method is recommended for the preservation of milk, either at sea, or in warm climates:—Provide pint or quart bottles, which must be perfectly clean, sweet, and dry: draw the milk from the cow into the bottles, and, as they are filled, immediately cork them well up, and fasten the corks with packthread

or wire: then spread a little straw on the bottom of a boiler, on which place the bottles, with straw between them, until the boiler contains a sufficient quantity—fill it up with cold water—heat the water—and, as soon as it begins to boil, draw the fire, and let the whole cool gradually. When quite cold, take out the bottles, and pack them, with straw or saw-dust, in hampers; and stow them in the coolest part of the ship, or in a cool place.

Some years since, there was a Swedish or Danish vessel at Liverpool, having milk on board preserved in this manner. It had been carried twice to the West Indies, and back to Denmark; and it had been above eighteen months in the bottles: nevertheless, it was as sweet as when first milked from the cow.

SUGAR LAURENTI.—"Persons who sweeten their tea or coffee every morning with this agreeable sugar, are sure to regain a *good plight of body*, and to acquire a *remarkable freshness*!!—It dispels *leanness*, and *pale and livid complexions*; and, independent of the corpulence and freshness which it procures, invigorates the forces of nature to such a degree, that, by this extraordinary increase of strength, nature is enabled to expel from the mechanism of the human body, the causes of disorders, which makes that by its eminent strengthening qualities: it yet retains the properties to cure *all curable complaints*, without rejecting from all these affections the hidden and abandoned, and also the despaired of by persons attached to the same art of the author!!

"Mr. Laurenti, a French physician, who is the inventor of this sugar, is ready to communicate the name, street, and number of the dwellings of *persons of distinction*, who have been cured of serious complaints through the efficacy of this sugar, after having used it as a nourishing food. The said physician resides at his house, No. 12. Homer Row, Edgeware road, near the first toll-gate.—Price five shillings a pound.

"He has established a *depôt* of the said sugar in the house of Mr. Wilson, by the side and against St. Giles's Church; entry, Denmark Street, No. 2, on the first floor, near the *beginning* of the end of Oxford Street.

"Small loaves of half pounds may be had, which said loaves bear the name and dash of the Inventor, and contain under their wrappers a prospectus, which gives a detailed account of this sugar.

"He allows 10 per Cent., postage free, to persons who wish to sell his sugar, on paying him ready money; and *he engages* to return the same for any quantity that may remain on hand!!

"N. B. *Laurenti's sugar is an aliment, not a medicament.*

"He receives no letters but those that are post-paid."

Apollo is the patron of *poets* as well as *physicians*; and, as the former disdain to fetter themselves with the trammels of *grammarians*, the latter may surely, under the sanction of the same master, claim this privilege also. It would be invidious, therefore, if not impious, to criticise the above learned effusion; besides which, the author is a foreigner, and has a claim upon our indulgence. Our limits preclude any farther remarks, but in our next Number, we shall describe the qualities of this *cheap sugar*—only *five shillings a pound*!! Oh, John Bull! Oh, Monsieur!

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To JUNE 1, 1822.

VOL. VII.

ON THE PECULIAR PROPERTIES OF PURGATIVE MEDICINES.

(Continued from Page 124.)

COLOCYNTH. COLOQUINTIDA, or BITTER APPLE.—The greater number of plants, of the gourd kind, possess purgative qualities; and, amongst these, most eminently so does the bitter apple, which is so called from the shape and flavour of the fruit. The colocynth plant flourishes in Turkey; its fruit is a yellowish capsule, about the size of an orange, filled with a light, white, spongy pulp, nauseously acrimonious and bitter. This pulp, separated from the rind and seeds, and carefully dried, is the part used in medicine. It is most powerfully and violently cathartic; and, even in the dose only of a few grains, purges vehemently; attended with bloody motions, and indisposition of the whole body. Colocynth, however, in appropriate doses, seems to resemble, very nearly, the action of aloes; and would be still nearer allied to the latter, in medicinal effect, did not its purgative elements reside in particles, some of which are extremely soluble in the stomach; whilst others, like aloes, are with difficulty dissolved. It may be considered, in fact, as one of the most extensively useful purgatives we possess; and is so modified by proper modes of exhibiting it, and by combination with other cathartics, as to fulfil nearly all the indications for medicines of this class. It purges both the stomach and bowels, removing viscid secretions, and biliary redundancy—cleansing the intestines of those various unhealthy secretions which adhere to, and accumulate in, the bowels of the dyspeptic, the hypochondriac, and the debilitated; and, after operating upon the whole course of the alimentary tube, inducing a determination of fluids into the canal, removes its contents, without leaving either constipation or relaxation.

It is sometimes exhibited in the following simple form:

Take of the pulp of Colocynth, in powder, four grains;

Gum Arabic, a drachm;

Sugar, two drachms;

Water Gruel, a wine-glassful;

Mix for a draught.

The griping quality of colocynth, however, renders a formula such as the preceding, very generally exceptionable; for, however the gummy and farinaceous matter with which the substance is mixed, may tend to correct the griping effect, it is not altogether prevented; and, in persons of weak and irritable bowels, and in children; spasms, excessive pain, and even inflammation itself, might be produced by it. Camphor appears to correct the griping

of colocynth, more than any other substance; and this it does, *probably*, by inducing a certain state of the nervous structure of the alimentary canal, which enables the bowels to sustain the stimulus of the purgative, without suffering the effects of irritative action. The following prescription presents a formula for this purpose:

Take of powdered Colocynth, five grains;
Camphor, ten grains;
Gum Arabic, in powder,
White sugar, of each a drachm;

rub the camphor to a fine powder, by the addition of a few drops of spirit of wine, and then incorporate it with the sugar; add the powdered colocynth, and combine it intimately by careful trituration: and having, lastly, thrown in the gum arabic, rub the whole into perfect commixture, and diffuse it slowly in a tea-cupful of barley water or gruel, and take it for an opening draught.

A simple preparation of this drug is kept in the form of an extract, which is made by boiling the pulp of the colocynth in water, filtering it whilst hot, and then evaporating it to a proper consistence. This article is called the "Extract of Colocynth," to distinguish it from another preparation of the same nature, to which the addition of several other substances has been made.

The extract of colocynth is an extremely useful adjunct in purgative pills, which is, in fact, the form best adapted for its administration; but it may be given in solution in the following manner:

Take of Sweet Almonds (blanched) No. 12;
Loaf Sugar, two drachms.

Rub the almonds into powder, with the sugar, and add of

Extract of Colocynth, half a drachm;

which is to be triturated with the almonds and sugar, and, lastly, dissolved in

Camphor Julep, half a pint.

A wine-glassful of this mixture may be taken every hour, until it operates.

The extract of colocynth may be given in the shape of pill, to an extent between five grains and half a drachm.

There is, perhaps, no form of purgative medicine, in which colocynth constitutes the principal ingredient, that is so generally useful, or so universally known and esteemed, as the pills, called "Pill of Cocia." It is the same as the "*Pills of Aloes, with Colocynth*," of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia, or the "*Compound Pills of Colocynth*," of the Dublin, prepared after the following formulæ:

"*Pills of Aloes, with Colocynth.*—

"Take of Socotrine Aloes;

Scammony, of each, eight parts;

Colocynth, four parts;

Oil of Cloves;

Sulphate of Potass, with Sulphur, of each one part.

Reduce the aloes and scammony into a powder, with the salt; then let the colocynth, beat into a very fine powder, and the oil, be

added: lastly, make it into a proper mass, with mucilage of gum arabic."

"Compound Pills of Colocynth.—

"Take of Pith of Colocynth, half an ounce;
Hepatic Aloes,
Scammony, each one ounce;
Castile Soap, two drachms;
Oil of Cloves, one drachm.

Powder the aloes, scammony, and colocynth separately; then triturate them with the soap and the oil, and form them into a mass with simple syrup."

According to either of the preceding formulæ, an exceedingly useful pill may be made; which is considerably more active than the common aloetic pills, and operates favourably in most cases. An analogous preparation is directed by the London Pharmacopœia, viz.

"Compound Extract of Colocynth.—

"Take of Pulp of Colocynth, sliced, six drachms;
Socotrine Aloes, in powder, an ounce and a half;
Scammony, in powder, half an ounce;
Cardamom Seeds, powdered, a drachm;
Hard soap, three drachms;
Boiling Water, two pints.

Macerate the pulp of colocynth in the water, with a gentle heat, for four days; strain the liquor, and add to it the aloes, scammony, and soap; then evaporate to a proper thickness, adding, towards the end of the operation, the cardamom seeds."

The above preparation is technically called "Cathartic Extract," and is one of the *most certain* purgatives we possess; succeeding, in many cases, where other cathartic remedies fail.

Disorders of the stomach, arising from irregularity—increase or obstruction in the biliary secretion, evinced by nausea, vomiting of bile, pain and spasm about the stomach, sick head ache, costiveness, &c., are relieved by the administration of colocynth, assisted by other cathartic medicines; and the "*Compound Extract of Colocynth*" answers extremely well for this purpose; for it is a fact, that not only does the combined mass act more efficiently than the same quantity of either ingredient would alone, but their qualities individually are corrected by each other, and their operation thus rendered more salutary and less irritative; and this applies to combinations in general. From ten to twenty grains of the compound extract may be taken for a dose; or eight or ten grains may be combined with two or three grains of calomel, or with ten of rhubarb; particularly if the disorder seems to be owing to obstruction in the ducts of the liver, or to a deficiency of bile, from inactivity of this organ. In obstinate costiveness, the following, being extremely active, may be prescribed:

Take of Compound Extract of Colocynth, half an ounce;
Calomel, sixty grains;
Syrup, a sufficient quantity.

The mass to be made into sixty pills; of which, from two to six, may be taken occasionally.

In cholicky affections, colocynth is very advantageously admini-

stered in combination with opium and spice. Two of the following pills may be taken every hour, until the bowels have been relieved twice or three times :

Take of Compound Extract of Colocynth, one drachm ;
Opium, three grains ;
Oil of Nutmegs, four drops.

Form a mass, and divide into a dozen pills.

As a common purgative pill to obviate costiveness, to carry off slime and bile from the bowels, the following formulæ present useful examples, viz.:

Take of " Pill of Cochia," a drachm ;
Calomel, fifteen grains.

Mix and divide into fifteen pills—three to be taken as occasion may require.

Take of " Pill of Cochia,"
Compound Pills of Gamboge, of each fifteen grains ;
Calomel, ten grains ;
Syrup, a sufficient quantity.

Divide into twelve pills, two of which may be taken occasionally.

Colocynth is the active ingredient of many advertised purgative remedies, particularly "Antibilious Pills." It forms a part of "Rudius's Pills," of "Fothergill's Pills," of "Barclay's Antibilious Pills," and of the celebrated "*Bengal Antibilious Pills*."—
(*To be continued.*)

WALLER'S DOMESTIC HERBAL.—It cannot fail to excite, in an attentive observer, the mixed sentiments of indignation and regret, that the medical press of this country, groaning, as it does, with the labours of embodying the thoughts of such a great variety of writers, should yet produce so little, either instructive or useful ; for it may be safely averred, that in no profession has the number of books been in so large a proportion to that of the members, or so little talent possessed by an equal number, as in the medical. An assertion such as this, will perhaps appear, to unthinking minds, to be so extraordinary, as to subject us, for the remark, to the imputation of having committed an ill-natured solecism ; but we repeat, that in no profession or vocation has the number of books, or the quantum of ignorance been relatively so great, as in ours. That there should be excessive ignorance found amongst the professors of medicine, cannot be a matter of surprise, when we take into consideration the abstruse, the conjectural nature of the science, (as it is sometimes called,) as well as the mental qualities and education of medical men in general. It is clear, that the study of medicine is only adapted for men of superior intellectual qualifications, and such only as have received from Nature capacities of the higher orders, and from the best instruction, and deep study, a large share of general knowledge, with that mathematical constitution of mind, whose method of examination is the invariable and unerring test of error and of truth : such only are fitted for the awfully responsible offices of the medical profession, and such were the sages who, ages ago, practised the healing art. How, then, must the heart sicken, when, after a retrospective view of the deep learning of the ancients,

we turn our eyes upon our modern medical hemisphere? Let us but compare the divine Hippocrates, the philosophizing Aristotle, the learned, the subtle Galen, with—" *But here my heart began to bleed, and I was obliged to go on with another part of the portrait* *." We revert now to this question, which some part of the preceding remarks will naturally enough excite:—How does it arise, that a multiplicity of books spring from a source so moderately qualified for supplying genuine information? The reason, to us, is obvious enough, and the answer this:—The success of a medical man depends upon the reputation he possesses—it matters not how deserving or otherwise—and as book-writing affords a medium, by which a man's name may be obtruded into society, who might otherwise be "born to blush unseen," it becomes a convenient vehicle of advertisement of himself and his opinions; and should the latter contain any thing new, (it signifies not how extravagant,) or if written with the appearance of classical learning, the author gets the reputation of a clever fellow, and the sweets of his practice soon disguise the disagreeable flavour which the gall of the critic may have occasioned him: in this view, book-making may be called the "Refuge for the destitute." But there is another set of men, whose vanity to be thought men of genius, constantly urges them to force upon us nauseating doses of their theories and hypotheses; so that what between the writings of the man of merit; the man who writes for notoriety, which he puts out to interest; and he who scribbles to indulge his vanity; it is a troublesome task to cull the flowers from the weeds; and, after all our pains, it rarely falls to our lot to meet with a book really valuable and useful: when such an one, however, does cross our way, the pleasure we receive from its perusal is increased in the satisfaction we enjoy, by the opportunity of reporting and recommending it to the public; and no publication which has ever come into our hands more deserves the latter, or is better calculated to afford useful information, than the "*New British Domestic Herbal*;" and amidst the mass of useless productions, will be ever recognized as a work of general utility. This useful book is denominated—" *The New British Domestic Herbal; or, a correct Description of British Medicinal Plants: intended for the use of Families, and for every purpose of Domestic Medicine; illustrated by Plates, exhibiting one hundred and thirty-two Figures of English Plants, accurately coloured according to Nature.*"

The author, in his preface, says, "It has long been his opinion, that a Family Herbal, embracing at once whatever is good in the ancient and modern practice, was a great desideratum in the libraries of intelligent persons residing in the country, and that even to the inhabitants of cities, where almost any plant may be procured with very little trouble at any season of the year, such a work would be found of the utmost service, by directing the invalid, or the heads of families, to efficacious, and, at the same time, safe remedies." After speaking of the baneful consequences of the indiscriminate exhibition of metalline preparations, which exactly coincide with our remarks in the last number of the *Gazette of Health*, when

* "On Slavery," by Sterne.

describing the charter of the College of Physicians, Mr. Waller observes, "The author of the present work, feeling deeply impressed with the persuasion, that the same salutary effects may be produced in the treatment of diseases by much less hazardous means, has been induced to offer to the notice of the public at large, as well as to the profession, the result of the experience of those great men, who nobly upheld the reputation of the profession in their respective periods, and transmitted in their writings, from generation to generation, the result of their individual practice in every disease that came under their notice, before the rage for poisonous minerals and vegetables had established itself." And, further, he says, "If the plants described in this work really possess the properties assigned to them, how does it happen that the greatest part of them are exploded by the practitioners of the present day? I answer, first; the present race of physicians do not even pretend that their rejection of them is the result of a conviction, after a fair trial, that they are inert and useless. Secondly, that so far from this being the case, the greatest part of modern practitioners are totally ignorant of what articles their predecessors employed, or for what purpose. Thirdly, the same plants continue still to be employed with the utmost confidence and success by the practitioners of the Continent, for the same purposes as formerly. Fourthly, it cannot be denied, that the abandonment of so many valuable indigenous plants is the consequence of a fashion, established within the last half century, of prescribing what are termed active medicines upon all occasions, taken principally from the mineral kingdom, by which means the *vegetable* articles of the *materia medica* have fallen into disuse and unmerited oblivion, more particularly in our own country. Consequently, the assertions of medical men, if any be found to maintain them, that our indigenous plants are inert and uncertain remedies, is founded upon ignorance, and not experience of their properties."

The preface concludes thus:—"In the Botanical descriptions, nothing further is aimed at, than just to point out those characters which will lead to the discovery of the plant; as it was not the author's intention to render the work an elementary treatise on that science, his principal object being the delineation of the medical properties of the different vegetable productions of our fields, woods, and gardens, in order to enable those, who have the opportunity and leisure, to exercise the most delightful of all the offices of humanity, that of contributing to the relief of the distressed and indigent; to restore the blessings of health to such of our fellow-creatures, whose situation in life renders disease a tenfold calamity by the additional poverty which it necessarily induces. Nor is it a small gratification to communicate our own knowledge to others, who may have disease only to contend with; but, as frequently enough happens, disease that has hitherto mocked all the efforts of the sons of Esculapius. There is scarcely a district within the kingdom, where some old woman is not to be found, who boasts (and not unjustly) of curing some of the most obstinate diseases, which the doctors had attempted in vain; and this merely from a slight hereditary knowledge of the properties of a few simples."

The first plant described is wolf's bane, or monk's hood, which is

cultivated in our gardens for its beauty : it is a violent poison, and accidents have often arisen from negligence or ignorance with regard to it. The author says, "The poisonous qualities reside in every part of the plant, but especially the leaves. When eaten, or in any manner taken into the stomach, they produce a kind of intoxication, or, rather, madness, with a burning heat in the mouth and throat, cold sweats, faintings, and spasms, and generally prove fatal in a few hours. Willis relates an instance of a man who accidentally ate some of these leaves in a sallad, and died mad in a very short time. Matthiolus mentions the circumstance of four robbers under sentence of death, to whom this plant was administered, two of whom, after suffering the most violent torments, were saved by appropriate remedies : the other two died. One of these became, in a few hours, idiotic ; the face was bathed in a cold sweat ; a total loss of sensation, with fainting and spasms, followed. He vomited a quantity of bilious matter, the body swelled up, and he died in a state of apoplexy.

"In the Philosophical Transactions, vol. xxxviii. anno 1734, is related the case of *John Crumpler*, who, at eight o'clock in the evening, ate a sallad, into which, by some negligence, a few leaves of the aconite had been introduced. He instantly felt a burning heat in the tongue and gums, and a considerable irritation about the cheeks. He imagined that his blood no longer circulated through the limbs, but felt no disposition to vomit. Perceiving that the symptoms increased, he drank about a pint of oil, and a great quantity of tea, which produced vomiting. The symptoms, however, instead of disappearing, grew worse. At ten o'clock a surgeon was called in. The patient was found in bed, with the eyes and teeth fixed, hands and feet cold as ice, the body covered with a cold sweat, pulse scarcely sensible, and the respiration so short, that it could hardly be perceived. Some spirit of hartshorn was administered to him, which induced coughing and vomiting ; an infusion of the blessed thistle was then given till he had vomited copiously. He soon after passed a stool, and vomited afresh. The pulse rose a little, and intermitted with very great irregularity. A mixture was ordered for him of *theriaca Andromachi, sal volatile, &c.* The next morning he was much better, and soon recovered."

After describing the qualities of "*angelica*," the author says—
 "The following prescription will be found both an agreeable and highly useful tincture in all disorders arising from flatulence, indigestion, or any complaint of the stomach and bowels, and a good preservative against these complaints :

"Take of Powdered Red Peruvian Bark, 1 ounce and a half ;
 Dried Orange Peel ;
 Angelica Root, bruised, of each 1 ounce ;
 Brandy, one pint.

Infuse the ingredients in the spirit, and let them stand fourteen days in a warm place ; then filter through paper.

"This cordial tincture may be taken in the dose of two tea-spoonful to a table-spoonful in any home-made wine. In marshy countries, where agues are prevalent ; this will be found an exceedingly

good preventative against those complaints, as well as a remedy for them when they have made their attack. In the former case, the dose above-mentioned should be taken in the morning just before going out of the house; but in the latter a full dose must be taken every two hours in the absence of a fit. A wine-glassful of the tincture by itself, taken a few minutes before the accession, will frequently prevent the fit; and if from twenty to thirty drops of laudanum be added to it, will seldom or never fail."

Under the article "common arum, wake robin, or cuckow pint," we find the following remarks:—"It exerts considerable power over that thick, viscid, tenacious, phlegmatous matter, which frequently abounds in the stomach and bowels, and gives rise to the most alarming diseases, defying the power of emetics or cathartics to dislodge it. The arum acts quickly on this glairy substance, and alters its nature, so as to fit it for easy expulsion, in consequence of its penetrating and volatile particles, which follow and pursue this tenacious, pituitous substance even into the bronchia of the lungs, where it succeeds in dislodging it, and fitting it for an easy evacuation by expectoration; hence its great utility in inveterate asthmas and old coughs." Our intelligent author has, we believe, in the above passage, given too much credit to the authority for "the penetrating and volatile particles" of this plant "following the thick, viscid, tenacious, phlegmatous matter *even into the bronchia of the lungs*." The ancients dealt much in such "hocus pocus:" it is, however, certainly a very active medicine; and Mr. Waller has been at much pains to ascertain its effects upon the body.

Our author is inclined to give the carrot poultice the credit for decisively good effects in cancerous sores. For our own parts, we have not been able to discover any advantage it possesses over a common poultice, except in correcting the fœtor which accompanies these unfortunate cases.

The "lesser centaury" is a stomachic and tonic medicine, and has been much extolled for its virtues in curing hydrophobia. The author of the British Herbal, however, very properly assents, with much caution, to the opinions of its advocates:—"Whatever may be the efficacy of this powder against the bite of a mad dog, it is certainly a very powerful remedy, in some of the most obstinate chronic diseases, and bears a great resemblance to the once celebrated Portland powder, which produced the most extraordinary effects in the cure of the gout. It is certainly worthy the attention of medical men, to make trial of it on dogs and other animals that are known to have been bitten. Although the hydrophobia, when established properly bids defiance to medicine, yet it is more than probable that the use of such powerful tonics and deobstruents, may so thoroughly fortify the system against the effects of this formidable poison, as to save a few, at least, of the miserable victims of this insidious, but terrific disease." We think that it does not lie within the power of this remedy to afford any relief in this terrible disorder; and it behoves the medical man to lose no time in fruitless experiments with any remedies that will not, from analogical reasoning, afford some prospect of success. If an antidote should ever be dis-

covered in the vegetable kingdom, for canine madness, we believe it will be derived from a very different class to that in which the "lesser centaury" ranks: Prussic acid should be tried in this hitherto hopeless malady.

The virtues of chamomile flowers having been discussed, Mr. Waller indulges in the following remarks:—"It has been a prevailing opinion amongst surgeons of late years, that the only good resulting from fomentations was owing entirely to the heat which they convey to the part; and practising on this mistaken theory, it has been usual, and indeed very general, in this country, to employ only hot water, out of which flannels are wrung quite dry, and applied to the part; and as little advantage has been found to attend their use, they are, comparatively, very little employed.

"Thus we perceive the theories of medical men to influence their practice more than the operations of Nature, which are, however, invariable. Later physiological experiments have shewn, that vegetable substances, as well as others, are absorbed from the surface, and being received in this manner into the system, produce precisely the same effect, whether good or bad, upon the different organs, as when taken into the stomach; and that many of the acrid vegetable poisons, which, when swallowed, produce ulceration in the coats of the stomach and intestines, actually produce the same effect when absorbed from the thigh, or elsewhere. Hence the fomentations made by a strong decoction of chamomile, poppy-heads, and other similar plants, will be found much more effectual in relieving pain, than those of hot water alone, as any patient who may have occasion for such soothing applications may soon verify." The good effects of fomentations do not certainly arise from *heat only*; for simple heat, without moisture, would be found, in most instances, to aggravate rather than alleviate the complaint. To confirm this, let any person suffering with erysipelatous inflammation of the skin, or with an irritable ulcer, try the effect of a hot *dry* flannel; the excessive increase of the pain will soon oblige him to desist, whilst a hot fomentation will afford him the most soothing relaxation and ease. The latter applies itself to the body as heated aqueous vapour, and is very opposite in its effects to dry heat.

The solution of the question, whether medicated fomentations promote a more beneficial effect than a similar application of hot water only, rests upon two points, viz.—the laws of absorption, and the qualities of the fomenting drugs. It has been proved, that absorption of substances applied to the *entire* skin is exerted very feebly, *except aided by the effects of friction*; and the following experiment was instituted in the inquiry:—The arm of a person was plunged into a glass cylinder up to the shoulder, and the vessel being filled with spirit of turpentine, was placed without the chamber window, which was shut as closely as the arm would allow, so as to prevent the terebinthinate vapour from being received into the lungs of the person who was the subject of the experiment. The well-known effects of turpentine, when received into the system, of speedily and certainly communicating to the urine the smell of violets, was not, however, produced in this experiment, after a con-

siderable time had been spent in it ; but as soon as the vessel was removed *into the chamber*, so that the vapour was inhaled by the lungs, the experimenter's urine betrayed strongly the usual test : hence it must be concluded, that no absorption of the turpentine took place, though the whole arm was immersed in it. But were the process of absorption from the skin ever so active, we could not reasonably expect an anodyne effect from a decoction of chamomile superior to that of warm water alone ; for the medical qualities of chamomile flowers reside in a volatile essential oil, which is dissipated by the heat of boiling water. Dr. Clarke, whenever he directed the use of fomentations, always ordered them to be medicated, because, he said, the odour affecting the olfactory nerves of the patient, impressed his mind with *imaginative* benefit!! We are decided enemies to any species of deception or delusion in the practice of medicine ; for we know of no beneficial effects to be derived from delusory measures, that may not be better obtained by the confidence which real talent and merit will ever command.

"Before dismissing this article," says Mr. Waller, "it may not be amiss to notice the prevailing practice in this country of using chamomile tea, or infusion, for the purpose of working off an emetic. Common tea, or warm water, are preferable for this purpose, as the infusion of chamomile, especially if it be of any strength, is one of the best remedies that can be given to stop a spontaneous vomiting, for which purpose it is constantly prescribed by the French practitioners. Where the stomach is naturally very difficult to excite to vomiting, this infusion is very apt to counteract the effects of emetics, instead of encouraging them." In opposition to the experience of our ingenious author, we have found that the infusion of chamomile flowers favours the operation of emetic substances, and possesses, also, the valuable qualities of leaving the stomach tranquil in a much shorter time than if warm water had been drunk, and with sensations of less fatigue and debility. The *cold* infusion, in the quantity of a small wine-glassful, administered at distant intervals, is certainly a good remedy in allaying morbid irritability of the stomach ; but there is certainly no analogy between *small* doses of the *cold* infusion, and *large draughts* of the *hot*.

We agree most cordially with the following sentiments, expressed under the article "*Colchicum*:"—

"One great cause, however, of these difficulties" (the author has been speaking of the uncertainty in the effects of different preparations of this article) "is the extreme affectation of simplicity in the modern practice of pharmacy, and the aversion of practitioners to what they consider complicated prescription. It is, however, a fact, that vegetable juices, brought in contact with each other, do undergo a chemical change ; and a compound is produced very different to what might be expected from a mere mixture of the two. This fact has been long known to the wine and cider makers, who are well aware that there is a very considerable difference between the mixture of two different wines or ciders, and that which results from the mixture of the two juices previous to fermentation. In the former case, the mixed liquor will partake of the properties of each ;

but in the latter, a distinct variety will be formed, in which neither can be recognized. The specific gravity of the juices is also changed, which proves that a chemical action has taken place.

"This chemical change in the properties of vegetables, by no means understood by physicians, is not, however, the only important change resulting from the combination of different articles in prescription; for where no chemical action can be supposed to take place, the effect of the most powerful medicine becomes so modified, by being combined with other articles, whose action upon the body is different, that no conjecture can be formed beforehand of what will be the result of certain combinations. Experience only can determine, with certainty, what will be the effect on the system. This may be illustrated easily by what takes place in the combination of ipecacuanha (a powerful emetic) and opium, the narcotic properties of which are known to every one. The mixture of the two, however, produces a result widely different from either."

The attempt to simplify the forms of prescription is fostered only by ignorance of the qualities of drugs on the one hand, and the operations in the laboratory of the stomach on the other. The scientific practitioner, informed of the virtues of every article, knows how to blend his agents in form and proportions; so that, by their united operation, he may obtain a result, which, by a consideration of their individual properties, could not, *a priori*, have been predicated: with such an one, then, a complex formula is safe and efficacious; but, in the hands of the ignorant, the administration of a single article is adventurous empiricism; for the same want of knowledge that renders him unfit for directing combinations, disqualifies him for judging of the effect of the most simple forms. If the *ultra* chemists would turn their attention to gastric chemistry, they would learn that the operations in the stomach differ widely from those in the retort; nay, there is even a principle in the human stomach, which opposes the developement of chemical agencies, such as take place out of the body; for it has been an ascertained fact, that two substances, which cannot be brought together without immediately forming a new substance, by an interchange of union, might be taken into the stomach, and no such decomposition ensue.

It is absurd to suppose (as is generally done) that a mixture is decomposed, because we perceive that a precipitate is thrown down; the change may be little more than a mechanical disarrangement of particles affecting the external appearance of the compound, without altering its chemical or medicinal character: such, for instance, is the effect produced by the addition of a salt to some vegetable decoction, containing gum or resin. But granting that decomposition does often ensue in our mixtures, either previously or subsequently to their entering the stomach, is such a circumstance to prohibit their administration? Certainly not; the new compound is the medicine desired, and the effect expected by the prescriber, is that which can alone ensue from the action of a principle, developed by the destruction of the original arrangement of the materials, and the formation of a new one.

A skilful physician, says Mr. W., will endeavour to avail himself of both these properties of vegetable substances; and it will be found, on a careful examination of the prescriptions of Sydenham, (reckoned absurd by modern practitioners on account of their complication,) that it was by no means the smallest part of the consummate skill of that great physician, to combine judiciously the different articles that entered into his prescriptions. We pay a great deal too much respect to chemical propriety in modern prescription, and reject many valuable formulæ of former days, only because the chemical combination is supposed to be injudicious, without the least regard to the effect absolutely produced on the animal economy. By this blind submission to the rules of the chemical schools, we lose all the advantages to be derived from a skilful combination of different powerful medicines, and imagine that we have greatly improved the art by simplifying it. It is in consequence of this rage for simplicity, that no preparation of the colchicum has hitherto been produced that can be relied on for uniformity of action, or that will not, in certain cases, produce very disagreeable effects."

"By late experiments made on this plant, a peculiar and hitherto unknown alkali has been discovered. In this we suppose its principal virtues to reside; as many experiments seem to demonstrate, that the cause of gout in the system is a peculiar acid."

Our worthy author, though he is found, when descanting upon the virtues of chamomile, to deprecate adherence to theories, has certainly here fallen himself into the error; for surely it is going too far, to attribute the good effects of colchicum, in gout, to the neutralization of acid by the alkali of the remedy; for the alkali (*if any*) is much too small to produce any effect on this principle. And again, the acid which prevails in the stomach, in persons predisposed to gout, so far from being the *cause* of the disease, is really the *effect* of gouty irritation of the stomach, and its presence is, to the patient, a warning of the approach of an attack of the disease, excited by the season, the state of the atmosphere, or some other cause. The various effects of colchicum depend more upon the varieties of constitutions (perhaps the state of stomach and nervous system) than on the inequality of the activity of the article, as it regards the time of year when removed from the earth. If the active medicinal or drastic virtues of the root of colchicum reside in an alkali, we will ask, how comes it that the *infusion* in vinegar acts more powerfully on the stomach and bowels than the *tincture* or the *root in substance*?

The author does not say whether he has had any experience of the qualities of the *seeds* of this plant; but Dr. Williams, Dr. Uwins, and others, who have given them an extensive trial, assert, that the alkaline wine, prepared with the seeds, *uniformly* succeeds in allaying gouty and rheumatic irritation, and in improving the general health; and we can add our own testimony as a corroboration of their opinions, for in all the cases in which we have given the remedy in this form, it has been productive of the most beneficial effects, when accompanied with such auxiliary remedies as the state of the constitution and other considerations indicated.

"But it is not merely as a remedy for gout, rheumatism, and affections of the joints, that colchicum has in the present day been extolled and recommended. A medical gentleman, Mr. Haden, has lately published a treatise on the virtues of this remedy in the most decidedly inflammatory cases, such as pleurisy, pneumonia, and other equally well-ascertained cases of increased action. Mr. Haden seems to consider the effect of the colchicum to be the same as that which results from the employment of the lancet, or any other of the means commonly adopted for lessening increased action. The cases adduced by him, seem to establish, to a certain degree, the doctrine he advances; and its known efficacy in relieving the acute form of rheumatism, as well as the chronic, would, in some measure, seem to sanction the idea of its diminishing excitement."

We have no hesitation in saying, that Mr. Haden was indebted to us for the knowledge of the powers of colchicum, in subduing inflammatory excitement, superseding in some degree the use of the lancet in inflammation of the chest, &c. &c.; and he is by no means entitled to the merit of the least originality in his practice, for this effect was known even to the ancients, and is recorded in their writings.

But we must now bring our critical remarks, produced by this interesting work, to a termination; not from the want of valuable materials for proceeding, but that we have already gone much too far, as regards our own limits. It is a work of such a nature, as precludes analysis; for every page teems with information. It is a truly *English* production, and must be as valuable to every *English* family as it is honourable to the industry and talents of its scientific author.

PHARMACEUTICAL GUIDE.—This is the title of a little work that has lately appeared, which, if studied, will prove very useful amongst the members of the medical profession; and yet, strange to say, it does not relate to disease: it is nothing more or less than a medical grammar; and, like the attempts of the disciples of Terpsichore, "to teach *grown-up gentlemen* to dance," instructs the medical practitioner in what he should have acquired whilst "a whining school-boy." We have often expressed our conviction, that a man may be both a good physician and surgeon, though he should not be an accomplished classic; but we must at the same time acknowledge, that an acquaintance with the latin language, adds to those advantages which facilitate his professional career through life. The progress of the medical art is considerably advanced, by the promulgation of individual knowledge; and the latin language, being the general medium through which men of science, of the various countries of Europe, communicate their opinions and experience, it furnishes a facility of increasing our stock of knowledge, by adding to it that of others. The works, too, of many of the ancients, written in this language, have never assumed an English garb, and can therefore be consulted only by those conversant with this tongue; besides which, the customs and usage of our own times, renders some acquaintance with the latin language indispensable. The physician is required to write his

prescription in latin;* and the apothecary who prepares it, is expected to understand it. The bottles and gallipots even are labelled in latin; and the compounder must, at least, know the signification of each name. But yet it will be found, upon enquiry amongst medical men in general, that this language is cultivated by them to a very limited extent. It is true there are many, who, in the cloistered recesses of "alma mater," have acquired a deep and erudite acquaintance with classic lore; but it is equally true, that there is a much larger number but very sparingly stored with latinity; and there is a number, perhaps, more than equal to both, whose knowledge of the language incapacitates them from understanding more of a prescription than its technicalities, which is acquired as the child gets the contents of his horn-book, and distributed with the wisdom of a parrot. We were asked, a short time since, by a medical man, if a *Latin* sentence he was reading was *French*!! and yet this precious literary sprig has published a translation of a *FRENCH book*—doubtless, as much his own, as a late work which bears his name, and which *we know* to be the production of *another person*. His chemical and classical acquirements go hand in hand; and the Heidelberg University, in compliance with the application of some friend there, granted a diploma for a *certain PRICE*!

But, to check our wanderings, and conclude our remarks, we must briefly observe, that the "Pharmaceutical Guide" is extremely well adapted to assist every professional man, whose study of latin has been neglected; and to the students at our various medical schools, it will, no doubt, be as invariable an attendant as the syllabus of their lectures. The arrangement is unexceptionable; the style clear and perspicuous; and the usual dryness of first elements is removed, by the interesting examples which every where are supplied, in illustration, from the Pharmacopœia. In short, whilst it effects the purposes of a latin grammar, it acts as a key to the London Pharmacopœia, by clear and scientific elucidations.

MEDICAL SURGERY.—We have received a copy of a very useful little work, under the title of the "New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia; or, Selection of Modern Formulæ from the Private and Hospital Practice of the most eminent Members of the Profession in Europe and America, for the use of Surgeons and Surgeon-Apothecaries." The first edition of this work was published about twenty years ago; and, we believe, was edited chiefly by the late Dr. Cheston, of Gloucester; and by the late Mr. Houlston, a surgeon of great experience and observation. It has been out of print nearly fifteen years, in consequence of the death of the editors. The author of this new edition has not only modernized the formulæ, but added about one hundred new ones, and also the different articles

* Physicians are commanded to write their prescriptions, every word, *at full length*; and they subject themselves to a considerable fine for abbreviations.

and combinations of them which have lately been introduced into practice; for which he acknowledges himself to be indebted to Mr. Abernethy; Sir Astley Cooper; Mr. Allard, of the Bristol Infirmary; Dr. Cheston, of the Gloucester Infirmary; Mr. Cam, of the Hereford Infirmary; Mr. Carmichael, of Dublin; Mr. Cline; Mr. Hutchinson; Sir Charles Blicke; Sir James Earle; Sir William Blizard; and other eminent practitioners; and he might have added, not a little to the Editors of the *Monthly Gazette of Health*; an acknowledgment which he, no doubt, would have made, had he not been aware, that he should thereby have subjected his work to the censure, or rather misrepresentation, of a certain set of *liberal* reviewers, who have endeavoured to convince their weak readers, that the object of the Editors of the *Gazette of Health* is to diminish the confidence of the public in the art of medicine, and, consequently, ruin the *guinea* and draught trades.

Although primitive medicine was chiefly surgical, medical surgery, or the constitutional treatment of surgical cases, has been most shamefully neglected by the moderns, till Mr. Abernethy published his work on the chylopoietic functions; probably, in consequence of having been, for some years, claimed by the physicians of Oxford and Cambridge, who modestly term themselves "regular physicians." A knowledge of surgery, these enlightened gentlemen consider to be so derogatory to their dignity, that the College of Physicians will not admit a candidate for a licence to an examination, if he be a member of the College of Surgeons; and many an applicant has been compelled to pay the College of Surgeons twelve pounds, to have his name erased from their list, (after having paid nearly thirty for the honour of having it put on,) in order to render him an eligible candidate for a licence, which, after all, allows him to exercise his art in common cases of disease; and this, this learned body say, is done to support the dignity of their members, if not for the good of the public!! The constitutional treatment of a surgical case, they contend, belongs to them; although they do not pretend to be acquainted with the distinguishing characters of ulcers, or of local diseases. Whether the local disease be syphilitic, scrofulous, or cancerous, is of no consequence; the medical management of the constitution must be superintended by a physician, as long as the patient is able to present him with the customary fee. A diffusion of a knowledge of medicine, within the last fifty years, has certainly not operated in favour of the humbug of medicine, or the fee trade. The public is no longer to be duped by regular or irregular quackery—even the lower classes are competent to form a just estimate of the qualifications of a physician, as any set of medical men; and the result is, that a preference is now generally given to those practitioners, who are acquainted with surgery and pharmacy. It is those physicians only, who are ignorant of surgery and chemistry, who rail against all attempts to acquaint the public with medicine, and who have the impudence to term such attempts quackery.

Anatomy, chemistry, and surgery, form the basis of medicine; and the practitioner, who is unacquainted with either, is entitled to

no other denomination than a regular quack. The man who diffuses a knowledge of any other science is generally complimented for his liberality; but he who attempts to communicate a knowledge of medicine to the public, is disgraced by the epithet of quack; whilst those who maintain the mystery of it, are termed *regular men*!! Which of the two is most entitled to a disgraceful epithet, or to the title of quack, we shall leave our readers to determine, after they have attentively read the articles on quackery, which we have published in some late numbers, and the continuation of the subject in our next number.

The selection of topical and constitutional remedies, which forms the New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia, is very judicious; and the remarks on each composition are evidently by an experienced and observant surgeon, conversant with the different branches of medicine. These, with the price of the book, satisfactorily prove, that his sole object is to communicate that practical knowledge to his brethren, which is likely to be productive of benefit to the public.

Of the oxy-phosphate of iron, lately recommended by the scientific Mr. Carmichael of Dublin, the author observes: "This preparation Mr. Carmichael recommends to be taken in the dose of a scruple, two or three times a day, in a little honey, in cases of cancerous ulceration, and of schirrous tumours. In the former it evidently improves the general health, and promotes the operation of the topical applications of the phosphate of iron; but, in the latter, we have not witnessed any good effects from it. In some instances it seemed to render the tumour more tender, and to hasten the ulcerative stage. It has been applied to inveterate phagedænic ulcers with great advantage; arresting the progress, and producing a healthy granulated surface." He adds, "the phosphate of iron Mr. Carmichael has employed as a topical application for cancerous ulceration; and, in many cases, we have found it to exceed our expectations." Indeed, by its continued use, we have produced sloughing of a cancerous breast, and entirely cured the patient. We have also healed ulcerations, which have taken place after amputation of a cancerous breast, which resisted other remedies. Mr. Carmichael speaks in very high terms of the anti-carcinomatous properties of these and the preceding preparations of iron; and Mr. Allard, in the course of his extensive practice, found them, in many instances, to merit the character Mr. Carmichael has given them.

"Mr. Carmichael prefers the phosphate of iron to any other preparation of it, because he thinks iron, combined with an animal acid, enters the system in greater quantity, and unites more intimately with the juices. The late Mr. Justamond, Mr. Allard, and Dr. Cheston, employed a weak solution of muriate of iron, as a topical application to open cancer and spreading ulcerations; and administered, internally, the *ferrum ammoniatum*."

Speaking of the medicinal property of arsenic, the author observes: "Because arsenic has succeeded in the cure of intermittent fever, after the Peruvian bark had failed, it has been termed a very powerful tonic. In cases of debility of the stomach, or general debility of the system, so far from manifesting any effect as a tonic, it uniformly

increases the symptoms of debility, by destroying appetite, and otherwise disordering the stomach. Probably its beneficial effects in ague, is to be ascribed to its slight *poisonous* action on the stomach, which rouses the power of the *vis medicatrix nature*; or, in other words, the power of resisting its baneful influence, which the system unquestionably possesses. By rousing this power, many diseases may be cured; but when it cannot be brought forward, in consequence of general debility, the remedy will prove hurtful. The operation of the vegetable poisons, in cases of whooping cough and other spasmodic diseases, may be ascribed to this effect."

Under the head of oxy-muriate of mercury, the author, makes the following just observation: "In the cutaneous affections, vulgarly termed land scurvy, and in foul scrofulous ulcerations, the oxy-muriate of mercury, taken internally, acts very beneficially, even after calomel or the blue pill has evidently aggravated the disease: indeed the results of our extensive experience with this medicine, in a variety of cutaneous and other affections, have satisfied us that it possesses virtues peculiar to itself, in consequence of some new combinations which form on the union of quicksilver with chlorine."

The following remarks on Goulard's extract of lead, our medical readers will allow to be very just:—"It is seldom, if ever, employed in surgery, in an undiluted state. The late Mr. Justamond, however, and Dr. Cheston, of Gloucester, used to apply it, mixed with an equal proportion of a spirit, to the edges of cancerous sores; and the late Mr. Ware was in the habit of applying it, by means of a camel-hair pencil, to chronic inflammation of the eye and eyelids.

"Some physicians have asserted, that this remedy has promoted the views of surgery at the expense of the general health, in consequence of an absorption of lead; and on this account many practitioners have given up the use of this remedy, and have had recourse to solutions of vitriolated zinc, and spirituous lotions, which, they say, answer equally well.

"In cases of common, or what may be termed *healthy* inflammation, the liquor subacetatis plumbi *dilut.* P.L. unquestionably proves more beneficial than spirituous lotions, or solution of the sulphate or acetate of zinc; probably in consequence of the nerves of the part (which are primarily affected, and probably has more to do with inflammation than the blood-vessels,) being paralyzed, or rather their excitement diminished, by the lead, which, on nerves, acts directly and powerfully as an anodyne. The lotion, when applied cold, by abstracting heat, and reducing arterial action, operates more effectually. The latter effect is increased, by the addition of alcohol; but the quantity directed by the College of Physicians, is much too small to promote this effect. Instead of a drachm of alcohol to a pint, we would recommend an ounce and a half, or two ounces. A small addition of vinegar, to hold the lead in solution, is also proper. In cases of inflammation in elderly or leucophlegmatic subjects, the application of even a very weak solution of lead, applied cold, has so much reduced the vitality of the part, as to occasion mortification. In cases of inflammation, from burns or scalds, the propriety of employing such an application is much to be questioned; for

experience has proved, that those which produce a contrary effect, viz. of stimulating the parts, have acted most beneficially. If the contents of the capillary vessels be decomposed, or rendered thick by the action of heat, so as to occasion obstruction, the practice is evidently to stimulate the vessels, in order that they may propel their contents to the larger vessels. It is probably on this principle, that spirit of turpentine, and the popular practice of holding the injured part near the fire, has succeeded in cases of burns. When, however, the coats of the vessels have been so far injured as to be incapable of acting, the success of such treatment cannot be complete."

The author has introduced different formulæ for the internal and external use of iodine, in scrofula and wens; the cubebs, the pyrolignous acid, the Prussic acid, the buchu leaves, for the diseases of the bladder and urethra, and several new remedies from eminent practitioners on the Continent. He has also added a copious alphabetical table of surgical diseases, with references to the most approved remedies. The formulæ are all neat and chemical, and the directions for their use plain and judicious. The work is, in fact, the most valuable that has issued from the press in this country for many years, and must prove a most useful guide for medical practitioners in general.

ON IMPERFECTION OF VISION.—(Continued from page 77.)

According to Dr. Nicholl's theory it appears,

1. That there is a certain state of the retina necessary, in order that the *mixed* rays of light may so affect it as to produce vision.
2. That there is also a particular state of the retina requisite, in order that each *separate and distinct* set of the rays of light may so affect it, as to produce a corresponding *peculiar and distinct* kind of vision.

These *two* states of the retina constitute the condition of an healthy eye, and is denominated, by Dr. Nicholl,

GENERAL SENSIBILITY of the Retina.

3. There is a state of the retina, in which all the rays of light, *whether blended or distinct*, fail to affect the retina in such a manner as to produce vision: this state may be denominated,

GENERAL INSENSIBILITY of the Retina, or Blindness.

4. There is a state of the retina, in which a *certain set* of the prismatic rays fail to produce a corresponding kind of vision: this may be denominated,

PARTIAL SENSIBILITY of the Retina.

5. There is also a state of the retina, in which *only one set* of the prismatic rays affect the retina in such a manner as to produce vision: this state may be called,

PARTIAL INSENSIBILITY of the Retina.

It appears, therefore, that the state of the Retina which fits it for being so acted on by *one particular set* of the prismatic rays, as to

produce vision, does not necessarily fit it for being so acted on by another set, or by all the other sets of the prismatic rays: for instance,

If the eye of a person be so constituted as to receive the impression made by the *red* and by the *blue* rays, and to the one compounded of these two rays, the *violet*, (or, as Dr. Nicholl expresses it, be in such a state as to produce a corresponding kind of vision,) and yet be insensible to *yellow* rays, then, in this case, the action of light would produce the sensations, *seeing red*, *seeing blue*, and *seeing violet*; but would not produce, *seeing yellow*: and as the orange and the green rays, as was before shewn, are each compounded, *in part*, of the yellow ray, such a person would necessarily be incapable of being impressed by these two colours; and, therefore, the sensations, *seeing orange*, and *seeing yellow*, would not be produced by the action of light upon such a retina.

Or if the eye be insensible to the *blue* ray, then the action of the other two primary rays, the *red* and the *yellow*, and the ray compounded of these two, the *orange*, would alone affect it; and as the green ray and the violet ray are each, *in part*, compounded of the blue ray, these two compound colours could not, of course, impress the eye; and, therefore, such a person would not, either by the *blue*, the *green*, or the *violet* rays, have corresponding vision produced; or, in other words, he would be incapable of *seeing blue*, *seeing green*, or *seeing violet*.

Or if the eye be insensible to the red ray, then no other sensation of colour can be produced, except those effected by the other two primary rays, the yellow and the blue, and their compound rays, the green; such a person, therefore, would perceive *yellow*, *blue*, and *green*; but would be insensible to *red*, and to *orange* and *violet*; because the two latter are, *in part*, compounded of red.

We conclude, therefore,

1. That an eye insensible to orange, may be so from being insensible to red or to yellow.
2. That an eye insensible to green, may be so from being insensible either to yellow or blue.
3. That an eye insensible to violet, may be so from being insensible to red or to blue.

EPITOME I.

An eye insensible to	is insensible to	but is sensible to
a YELLOW,	{ Orange, Green,	{ Red, Blue, Violet.
b BLUE,	{ Violet, Green,	{ Red, Yellow, Orange.
c RED.	{ Orange, Violet,	{ Yellow, Blue, Green.

EPITOME II.

1. Insensibility to ORANGE, { may arise from } RED or YELLOW.

Insensibility to { *Red*, leaves sensibility to { Yellow,
Blue,
Green.
Yellow, leaves sensibility to { Red,
Blue,
Violet.

2. Insensibility to GREEN, { may arise from } YELLOW or BLUE.

Insensibility to { *Yellow*, leaves sensibility to { Red,
Blue,
Violet.
Blue, leaves sensibility to { Red,
Yellow,
Orange.

3. Insensibility to VIOLET, { may arise from } RED or BLUE.

Insensibility to { *RED*, leaves sensibility to { Yellow,
Blue,
Green.
BLUE, leaves sensibility to { Red,
Yellow,
Orange.

We shall next proceed to apply the foregoing remarks and illustrations, in explanation of the phenomena of some persons, confounding red with green, and pink with blue.

Thus it appears, that the state of the eye, during the sensation of seeing red, is different, and even opposite to the state whilst seeing green; and it is therefore improbable, that the red ray and the green ray should excite the same state of the eye of the individuals in question; that is, that the green ray should excite the same state of the eye which the red ray does, or that the red ray should excite that state which attaches properly to the effect of the green ray; and it is equally improbable, that the red ray should be capable of exciting the state of the eye necessary to seeing green as well as red; or that the green ray should be capable of exciting the state of the eye necessary to seeing red as well as green. If, then, the red ray and the green ray cannot produce the same state, or if they cannot each produce the two states excited by both, it follows, that in these individuals, the eye is insensible either to the one or the other; and, therefore, if they have sensation produced by the red ray, they have none excited by the green ray, and *vice versa*.

We arrive then at this conclusion, that the eye of these individuals is insensible either to the red ray, or to the green ray: if they are

insensible to the red ray, they can, as is demonstrated in Epitome I. c., only have the sensations *seeing yellow*, *seeing blue*, and *seeing green* produced. If they are insensible to the green ray, they may, as is shewn in Epitome II. 2, have the sensations *seeing red*, *seeing yellow*, and *seeing orange*; or of *seeing red*, *seeing blue*, and *seeing violet*.

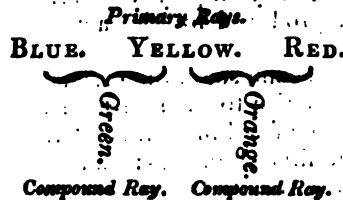
Now, these individuals confound pink with blue. *Pink is only a faint shade of red*; and, as in these persons the red and green rays cannot each affect the eye so as to produce *seeing*, but they are insensible to the one or the other, so it may follow, that if they are sensible to pink rays, they may be insensible to blue rays: thus it is found, that they are sensible either to

a.* Yellow, Blue, and Green;

or to

b.* Red, Yellow, and Orange.

In either case they are sensible to yellow rays, as is shewn by the following diagram:—



If then the eye of these persons be sensible to green and to blue rays, they are insensible to orange and red rays; but, in both instances, equally sensible of yellow, as represented above.

And if these persons can have the sensation *seeing red*, they have not the sensation *seeing blue*; and therefore cannot have the sensations *seeing green*, or *seeing violet*, because *both the latter* are compounded of blue, which is absent.

But if these persons can have the sensation *seeing blue*, they have not the sensation *seeing red*; and therefore cannot have the sensations *seeing orange*, or *seeing violet*, because *both the latter* are compounded of red, which is absent.

In both the above instances, they must be insensible to the violet rays; because violet is compounded of red and blue, one of which is absent in either case.

That our conclusions may meet with confirmation, we observe, that as these individuals never confound *yellow* with any other colour, and as their eye is *always* sensible to yellow, they must necessarily be insensible either to red or blue; because, in one instance, *green* is present, which, as the compound of yellow and blue, excludes *red*; and, in the other instance, *orange* is present, which, as the compound of yellow and red, excludes *blue*.

Dr. Nicholl concludes his examination of this interesting subject, with the following remarks:—

"I proceed, lastly, to compare the conclusions at which I have arrived, with the facts observable in the cases of these individuals. But it must be recollected, that it is impossible to ascertain the *kind* of the sensation *seeing* which any ray of light produces in another person by its action upon his retina. We can only ascertain whether two different rays do or do not excite in him two sensations, which he describes as differing from each other: for instance, it is impossible to ascertain whether the red ray produces in another person the same kind of sensation that it excites in me; but I can ascertain whether the red ray produces in him a sensation different from that which he receives in the presence of any other ray. Both he and I agree to call the sensation which the red ray excites in each of us *seeing red*, but this term does not describe the kind of sensation; it merely denotes that such sensation is different from the sensations which are produced in him by other prismatic rays.

"The action of the first set of the prismatic rays upon the retinae of these individuals gives rise to the sensation *seeing a colour*; and to describe this sensation, they employ the term which others use to denote the sensation produced by the action of that set, they call it *seeing red*.*

"The action of the second set of the prismatic rays upon the retinae of these persons, gives rise to the sensation *seeing a colour*, which they describe as being of a kind different from that which arises from the action of the first set of rays; and to describe this sensation, they employ the term which others use to denote the sensation produced by the action of the second set of rays; they call it *seeing orange*.

"The action of the third set of the prismatic rays upon the retinae of these persons gives rise to the sensation *seeing a colour*, which they describe as being different from those which are produced by the first and second sets of prismatic rays; and to describe this sensation, they employ the term which others use to denote the sensation arising from the action of the third set of rays; they call it *seeing yellow*.

"It will be recollected, that when the sensation *seeing red* has been for a long time kept up in ordinary cases by the continued action of the first set of the prismatic rays, the sensation *seeing green* arises, and *vice versa*. But (in the case of Mr. Buchanan†) when the long continued action of the first set of prismatic rays had produced the long continuance of *seeing colour* (which he also terms *seeing red*), no other sensation of *seeing a different colour* arose; so that, in his case, the long continuance of *seeing red* does not produce *seeing green*, as it does in ordinary cases.

When the retinae of these individuals are exposed to the action of

* They sometimes call it also *seeing green*, since they use the terms *seeing red* and *seeing green* indiscriminately to denote the same kind of sensation.

† Medico Chirurg. Trans, vol. ix. Part II. The experiment was not made in the other case.

the fourth set of the prismatic rays, a sensation *seeing a colour* is present, which they describe as being the same as that which is produced by the action of the first set of prismatic rays. The first and the fourth set of rays do not then produce in these persons two different kinds of sensation. If then the first set of the prismatic rays produces a peculiar corresponding sensation, the fourth set of those rays does not produce such sensation, as I have already endeavoured to prove; so that if we admit that these persons can have the sensation *seeing red* produced, we must deny their being able to *see green*; we must suppose their retinæ to be insensible to the green rays; to be, in other words, incapable of assuming the sensual state D; and this inference seems confirmed by the fact of no new sensation arising in Mr. Buchanan, after the long continuance of that sensation, *seeing colour*, which is produced in him by the long-continued action of the red ray upon his retina. We are then, I think, warranted in supposing that these individuals do not *see green*. Why then do they *see red* in the presence of the green ray? As far as regards the green ray, they are in the state of a nyctalopic, whose retina is sensible only to the red rays which are contained in mixed light. They are in a state similar to that of persons whose retinæ have been long acted upon by green rays, and who then have the sensation *seeing red*, although their retinæ are still acted upon by green rays. The retinæ of these persons cannot assume the sensual state D; the presence of the green ray, therefore, does not produce any sensation. As then the sensation *seeing red* arises in the presence of the green ray, and as such sensation can be produced only by the action of red rays, such sensation must arise from the action of the most powerful of the rays which are contained in the *mixed light* to which their retinæ are also exposed, namely, of the red rays; so that when their retinæ are exposed to green rays, since they cannot assume the state D, and as they are sensible only to red, orange, or yellow rays, they are acted upon by the red rays which are contained in the mixed light to which they are also exposed, and the sensual state A arises.

“When the retinæ of these individuals are exposed to the action of the fifth set of prismatic rays, the sensation *seeing a colour* arises. This sensation is not the same as either of those which arises from the action of the first, of the second, or of the third set of prismatic rays. They describe it as not being the same as *seeing red*, *seeing orange*, or *seeing yellow*. Wishing then to distinguish by name the sensation which arises in the presence of the fifth set of prismatic rays, they apply to it the name which others use to denote the sensation produced in *them* by the action of those rays; they call it *seeing blue*. These individuals confound dark blue with crimson. Crimson is a dark shade of red. What they call *seeing blue* is then *seeing a deep dark shade of that colour which is excited by the red ray*. The subjects of the two cases which I have recorded, call the crimson curtains of their respective beds, *blue* by day-light, and *red* by candle-light: that is, by day-light, they have the sensation *seeing a dark shade of red*; whereas, by candle-light, they have a fainter degree of that sensation, or the sensation *seeing a lighter shade of*

that colour. As they use the term *blue* to denote *seeing a dark shade of red*, so do they use the term *light blue* to denote *seeing light shades of red*, which other people call pink, or they indiscriminately use the terms *light blue* and *pink* to denote the same sensation. When then the darker shades of blue are presented to the retinæ of these individuals, as their retinæ are (as I have endeavoured to prove) insensible to blue rays, they will not have the sensation *seeing blue*, but they will be acted upon by red rays of a dark shade, which excite the sensation *seeing dark red*. For if they did not *see any colour* during the presence of dark blue rays, they would *see black*, and seeing only a few rays mixed with *no colour*, they, in fact, *see a dark shade of red*. Mr. Buchanan informs me that he cannot distinguish *dark blue* from *black* by candle-light, and he says, that what gives him by day the sensation *seeing dusky red* affects him so little by candle light, that he then scarcely *sees any colour*. These persons confound grass green with scarlet, light blue with pink, dark blue with crimson, very dark red with black. The fact then appears to be, that these individuals *see red*, *see orange*, and *see yellow*, from the actions of the first, second, and third sets of rays respectively; but that, as they advance in the prismatic range, their retinæ are affected only by the red rays of the mixed light to which they are also exposed—they *see only shades of red*, varying as they advance towards the most refrangible rays, from a sensation similar to that which is excited by the first set of the prismatic rays to less vivid degrees of the same sensation, until at length no sensual state being produced in the retinæ, they have a sensation similar to that which is present in the absence of all luminous rays; that is, they *see black*. They have sensations of *seeing colour* excited only by red and yellow rays, and by the various compounds of these two rays; and they have distinct sensations produced only by strong rays of these sets of prismatic rays; for all dark shades of red, of orange, of brown, as well as deep green and purple, are by them confounded with black, i. e. with the absence of all colour. The subject of one of my cases saw but three colours when he looked through a prism. Mr. Buchanan says, that the rainbow appears to him yellow in the centre, and *blue* at the edges, which latter assertion proves that he uses the terms *red* and *blue* to denote similar sensations; the order of the prismatic rays being as follows: Red, orange, yellow, green, light blue, dark blue, violet. The corresponding order of sensations which arise in these individuals, in the presence of these successive prismatic rays, are as follows: Red, orange, yellow, red, pink, dark red, dark indistinct colour, or black.

“The facts observable in the cases of these individuals seem to agree with the conclusion which I arrived at in the earlier part of this paper; namely, that the retinæ of these individuals are sensible to red and to yellow rays, and to the rays compounded of these two sets of rays, or to orange rays, but that they are insensible to green, to blue, and to violet rays.

Some persons possess auditory organs, which enable them to discriminate a great variety of *sounds*, while other individuals, who possess great quickness of *hearing* with regard to *sound* in general, are,

nevertheless, unable to distinguish any great variety in the kind of sounds which they hear. There is *general sensibility* of the auditory nerve required for the production of the general sensation *hearing*; there is a *partial sensibility* of that nerve required for the production of varieties in the kind of that sensation. If an auditory nerve be so formed as to be capable of assuming a great variety of sensual states, according to the nature of the impressions made upon it, the possessor of that nerve is said to possess a *nice ear*, while he whose auditory nerve possesses only general sensibility is said to have an *unmusical ear*. It is the same with regard to the retina. It may possess general sensibility, enabling its possessor to *see shape and extent of surface* accurately, while it is incapable of assuming the usual variety of sensual states, thereby preventing the possessor of it from *seeing* that variety, with regard to *colour*, which the possessors of the ordinary kind of retina are enabled to distinguish."

REMARKS on the DEATH of the late ARCHBISHOP of ARMAGH.

By Mr. Edward Jukes, Surgeon, Westminster.

The circumstances attending the melancholy death of this excellent prelate, have excited an interest and commiseration even in those unacquainted with his worth: but how much more, then, must those regret it, who knew the true value of his disposition, by witnessing and experiencing his amiable virtues, in the pleasures of a personal acquaintance. As one of the latter, I have, as may naturally be supposed, contemplated the misfortune with deep interest; and my private feelings having led me farther into an investigation of collateral circumstances than I might perhaps have been induced to do, under ordinary cases, I beg to submit the result of my reflections to professional examination and consideration.

It appears that some time had elapsed after the primate had swallowed the two ounces of laudanum, before the mistake was discovered; but as soon as it was known, Mr. Jones, the apothecary, was fetched, who very properly immediately administered an emetic of the sulphate of zinc; but the excitability of the stomach had been so exhausted by the opium, that it was not to be roused by the stimulus of ordinary emetic substances. Dr. Bailey and Sir Henry Hallford endeavoured to excite vomiting, by irritating the fauces, &c. &c. but with no success, and the poisoned divine was abandoned to his fate.

Gracious God! is a human being, whose life is capable of prolonging itself several hours after such an accident, to be consigned to disastrous death, *as an inevitable consequence*, because *while vitriol*, with tickling the nose and throat, will not make him sick? and, after employing the means of resuscitation generally resorted to, shall it be said, that *all* has been done that medical science can devise? Such a conclusion, if true, would argue an imperfect state of our art, that must bring it into contempt, and ought to rouse every member of the profession to devise some improvement in this branch of medical

knowledge, as shall remove an opprobrium apparently so justly merited.

I offer the following suggestions, then, not as perfected and ready for adoption, but as ideas hastily collected, and submitted for the improvement which ingenious minds will not fail of producing.

I submit, therefore, that if the vitality of the stomach (in cases of poisoning by opium) has been so far reduced by the narcotic drug, that the organ is insusceptible to the stimuli of emetic medicines; or is so torpid and enfeebled, that it is incapable of assuming the action necessary to vomiting; then it is incumbent on the surgeon to resort to *mechanical* means for dislodging the poison from the stomach, which may be effected by an apparatus of the following nature:

1st. A hollow flexible tube, (of elastic gum) about 25 inches in length, and half an inch in diameter; having three equi-distant longitudinal grooves, of an inch and a half in length, around its extremity. Within each groove, three holes, which perforate the tube of $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in diameter, (though perhaps it might be as well to make them oblong, like the eye of a catheter,) and rather less than half an inch asunder: the opposite extremity of the tube to be fitted with a female screw, to be adapted to the other part of the apparatus.

2d. An elastic bottle, capable of holding a quart in measure, armed with a short pipe, and stop-cock, (similar to an hydrocele bottle) the extremity of which may be screwed into the end of the tube above mentioned.

With such a simple apparatus, I conceive the stomach might be emptied, when emetics have been tried in vain; and I should employ it in the following manner:—

The tube having been carefully passed down to the *greater curvature* of the stomach, the *elastic* bottle being filled with water of the temperature of 150 degrees of Fahr. thermometer, is to be screwed into it, and the stop-cock being opened, the contents of the bottle is to be gently urged through the tube into the stomach, by the surgeon, or an assistant, compressing the bottle between his hands. By removing this pressure, the bottle, by its elasticity, recovers its original form and dimensions; and, consequently, performs the office of an exhausted pump, by which means the fluid is again drawn back into it.

Remarks.—I would use water of the high degree of temperature that I have mentioned with the view of some effects from its stimulus. We know, from experimental observation, that there is no stimulus capable of rousing the suspended functions of animal bodies so certainly as the matter of heat; and to prove this, it is only necessary to take some one of the hybernating animals, during its torpidity, and submit it to the action of galvanism, and to immersion in warm water; the superior influence of the latter over the former, in restoring the internal phenomena of life, is soon rendered apparent.

But it is not from temperature that I expect the greatest benefit to arise, by the injection of water, but from dilution. It must be remembered, that the active elements of the poison are contained in a very small bulk; and even, should a wine-glassful of laudanum

have been swallowed, such a quantity may easily be enveloped in the folds of the stomach, and thus escape the action of the apparatus; distending the stomach then with water, will equally diffuse the poison; besides which, if solid food should be contained in the stomach at the time of taking the laudanum, it may so far *absorb* it, as to render the removal of the remaining *liquid* contents of the stomach of no avail; but the injected warm water pervading every recess of the stomach, and permeating its solid contents, would most probably wash away the whole of the poison contained within it.

The operator should not be content with once injecting and evacuating the stomach; he should continue to throw in a fresh quantity of water, as long as the fluid abstracted betrayed any signs of being impregnated with the poison.

It is proper to remark, that it will not be necessary to inject the stomach, except in those instances where the patient has become comatose; if he remain sensible, he should be directed to drink copiously of hot water, previously to the introduction of the tube into the stomach.

It will perhaps be asked, what method I devise for recovering the patient from the effects of the poison already produced? I reply, that, had I at this time leisure to enter into this part of the subject, it would be foreign to my purpose; my intention *at present* being simply to propose some means for evacuating the poison by mechanical agency, when the vital energy itself is incapable of doing so.

I have advised the holes in the extremity of the tube, to be made within the channel of several grooves, and for this reason: that without such a precaution, as soon as the suction is made, the mucous membrane of the stomach, if it should happen to be in contact with the instrument, would be drawn into the openings, and thus prevent the discharge of its contents, as will perhaps sustain some injury itself; it is obvious, that the ridges between the grooves will tend materially in preventing such an occurrence.

It has occurred to me that, even in those desperate circumstances where the excitability of the stomach is reduced so low, that emetics will not act, this organ may, by mechanical means, be brought into such a condition, as will render it susceptible to this class of medicines; that is, that such a temporary influx of the nervous principle may be elicited to it, by mechanical irritation, as will renew sufficient excitability of the stomach, as to render it sensible to the stimulus of emetic substances, and give its muscular structure sufficient energy to enable the organ to excite the associated motions of sympathetic parts, and to fulfil the actions of vomiting. To ascertain this, I am about trying the effect of introducing the dolichos, in a *dry state*, into the stomach: whether the viscosity of the mucous fluid of the stomach will protect the inner surface from the mechanical irritation of the article, I am not aware; nor am I at all acquainted with the effect which this article might have upon the gullet, fauces, and mouth, if it were thrown up. A physician of my acquaintance has indeed informed me that he has swallowed the hairs of dolichos, mixed with water, without experiencing the

slightest inconvenience; but experiment alone can determine it. I shall administer first an emetic; and, having waited some minutes, I intend to pass the dolichos into the stomach, through a hollow tube, open at both extremities. Should this fail, I shall endeavour to excite the stomach, by passing a fasciculus of bristles, secured to a flexible stillet, through the tube, and gently irritating the stomach with it.

Having thrown these crude notions together, I leave them for the consideration and improvement of those, as anxious as myself. They will, no doubt, be found extremely defective, because purely theoretical; but should they only prove the humble means of eliciting an attention to the subject, which shall eventually lead to practical utility, I shall consider them not altogether useless.

Westminster, May 29, 1822.

Mr. Jukes has kindly promised to inform us of the result of his experiments, which we shall be enabled to lay before our readers in the next number. Mr. J. is also preparing a plan for the adoption of apothecaries and chemists, by which accidents by poisoning may be avoided; this also we shall lose no time in communicating to the public.

On account of the length of Mr. Jukes's interesting paper, we are compelled, through want of room, to postpone the conclusion of our remarks on *Quackery* until next month.

BURNS AND SCALDS.—Dr. Copland has lately published the following “Remarks on Burns and Scalds, from the pen of a Mr. Thomas Stokes, of Thornbury, who represents himself to be a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London.”

“It is well known that two remedies of an opposite nature are in use for burns and scalds. Some contend for the use of *cold* water, and other *cold* applications, as a *primary* resource; while others equally indicate the employment of *spirit* of turpentine, *warm* brandy, or other spirit. It happens *for* me to belong to the latter class. *I am aware*, there is *no* occasion of adding my *humble* declaration of preference on this subject, after eminent men have given it the authority of their names, (among whom I may reckon, more particularly, Dr. Kentish, in the present time, and the renowned Sydenham *at his* time); but as *I* have *reason* to believe the principles of proper treatment in this important part of surgery are not generally well understood, I am induced to solicit room for a few remarks in the Medical Repository. The late Mr. Thomas Shute, an eminent surgeon of Bristol, whose *premature* death *robbed* his profession of a name that would have been distinguished in its annals, and *society* of a *gentleman* that would have been an ornament to any rank of life, was accustomed to repeat in his lectures the *old adage*, that “*extremes are dangerous*,” that it *was* *destruction* to *bring* a *frost-bitten* limb to the fire, and, by the same rule, *out of reason* to plunge a severe burn or scald into its opposite—cold!! In such cases, he recommended the application of spirit of turpentine, or some *warmed* spirit, at first, on the principle of a *cooling* lotion; knowing that, as the *pain* and *heat* of the part subsided, what at first was a *cooling*

lotion, would become, if continued, a *stimulating* dressing. He *therefore*, after the first day or earlier, inculcated a change to a milder application, the turpentine liniment, which *might* be lowered, if *necessary*, with olive oil, or simple ointment. He also strictly limited the use of spirit of turpentine to the injured surface; and, if indicated, he had no objection to the employment of some lotion, to abate the heat of surrounding parts. In cases where the vital powers appeared much depressed, he advised cordials; and in others opium, to allay irritability!! He was also not less particular in urging a strict attention to keep limbs, and *other* parts thus affected, in a state of *extension* and *rest*, in order to prevent the ugly as well as *troublesome* condition of cicatrization, so frequent *on* children treated by *their* parents, or entrusted to the care of *irregular* and *ignorant* practitioners!!! During the *suppurative* stage with such patients, the following cerate, in use at the Middlesex Hospital, may be pronounced unrivalled. It *seems* to *soothe*, while it *imbibes* the discharge!!!

“ Take of diachylon, one pound;
Olive oil, half-a-pound.

When melted together, add prepared chalk and acetic acid, of each half-a-pound, and stir them together till cold.”

“ From *my own* observations (says Mr. Stokes) on the effects of cold in burns or scalds, whether from immersion in *cold* water, or from *cold* lotions, and other applications of *that* nature, *I* believe, that in *severe* cases, where *life* is, as it were, *struck a hard blow*, they either weaken *it* so much as to be past recovery, or they tend to excite shivering, nausea, sickness, local congestion, increased discharge, and sloughing. *I* would rather prefer *for myself*, under such circumstances, a warm bath, about ninety-six degrees of Fahrenheit; and *I* can conceive more good than harm from it. In slight burns or scalds, where the constitution is little or not at all disturbed, *I can bear* witness to the good effects of *cold* water, *cold* vinegar and water, and cold spirituous lotions; but would trust them no farther!!”

To our non-medical readers, this article may convey some practical information; but, that it should be inserted in a work published professedly for communicating information to the members of the medical profession, is a matter of astonishment to us. A confirmation of the good effects of the *spirit of turpentine* in burns or scalds was, no doubt, gratifying to *Dr. Copland*. We beg to ask the Doctor, if it is not his duty to give his correspondent a scientific explanation of the terms *cold* and *warm*; and explain to his readers how *he* accounts for an article which “*at first*” was a cooling lotion, should become a stimulating one, on being continued; and also for a plaster composed of diachylon, oil, vinegar and chalk, possessing an imbibing quality? Even if the prepared chalk were not mixed with vinegar, it would be rendered, by the oil and plaster, incapable of imbibing any discharge from the skin. The Doctor has very properly placed the article among his *original* communications. The learned Doctor's own *original* ideas of the ganglionic functions, and “that there kind of thing,” we shall decline to notice, till he has

finished the article, which, in compassion to his readers, we hope he will bring to a conclusion in his next number.

We suspect the Doctor's attempts to reanimate the Medical Repository, by *cooling* the inside, and *stimulating* the outside, by means of spirit of turpentine, even with his ganglionic theory, will fail; and that he, with his able coadjutor, Dr. James Johnson, will soon have an opportunity of displaying the *sublimity* of their flights of fancy, in the composition of an epitaph to perpetuate the memory of the Medical Repository, and Medico-Chirurgical Journal, who, in the prime of life, fell cruel sacrifices to internal dropsy, to the great disgrace of the medical profession of the age in which *they flourished*.

PALSY.—Professor Olmsted, of the College of North Carolina, has published a case of palsy of the face and eyes, which was cured principally by lightning. "As the patient was walking in his chamber, a flash of lightning struck him senseless for about twenty minutes. On the following day, he was free from any paralytic affection, except a slight deafness, which he attributes to the shock of lightning." The result of the shock in this case has induced Mr. Olmsted to suppose that the opposite reports of practitioners of the effects of electricity on partial palsy, particularly of the eye and ear, and some other nervous affections, arise from different modes of employing it, and that if shocks were cautiously and judiciously administered, instead of sparks, &c., it would prove more generally useful.

DROPSY OF THE LOWER EXTREMITIES.—Dr. Granville has published a long paper from a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, residing at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on the superior advantages of puncturing anasarcaous limbs, over incision and blistering. The author directs the puncture to be made with a common bleeding lancet, on the inner side of the calf of the leg, about four or five inches below the knee; after which a bandage is to be applied, "beginning about an inch above the puncture, and to be carried up to the groin." This bandage is to be tightened as soon as it becomes slack. A piece of adhesive plaster is to be applied over the puncture, with a hole in its centre, of the size of the puncture, to admit of the escape of serum. Such medicines are to be administered, as the state of the stomach, bowels, kidneys, &c. may indicate. The author has found the tincture of fox-glove, with the sweet spirit of nitre, to answer best in his practice. The practice recommended by this gentleman is very old, and, we believe, is generally adopted by experienced and cautious surgeons, in preference to scarifications or blistering. Some physicians of great experience contend, that a very thin slip of blistering plaster applied two inches above the ankle, succeeds much better than puncturing, and the inflammation is less liable to become gangrenous; and from this practice, we have frequently witnessed very favourable results.

THESEIDLITZ SALT.—An intelligent lady, who has been much distressed from indolent bowels and from flatulence, informs us, that she has derived more benefit from the true Seidlitz salt, (which she procured from Germany), dissolved in a tea-cupful of chamomile tea, than from any aperient medicine which had been prescribed for

her. The dose of the salt is from two to three spoonsful, and the best time for taking the solution, in chamomile tea, is about an hour before breakfast.

COPPERAS.—SIRS,—Although I cannot, like your witty correspondent, Copperas, boast of being descended from ancestors, who had the honour of being noticed by Pliny, I have the *honour* of holding the rank in the *Materia Medica* which my ancestors did; and the reason why poor Copperas was banished from the *Pharmacopœia*, I shall leave him to communicate, not doubting but that he will display the same degree of candour and liberality in doing it, as he has done in his animadversions on what he has been pleased to term a scurvy misrepresentation of him, by a "*mushroom physician, of consummate medical education.*" Now, Sirs, I beg to ask you, if it be necessary for a physician to be acquainted with the composition of articles which are used by painters and dyers, to enable him to discharge his duty to his patients. The term *copperas*, I believe, was never used in medicine; it is applied *only* to an *impure* sulphate of iron, made at a very cheap rate, for the use of dyers: and because a physician is not acquainted with the composition of such an article, and especially when the name is not a correct one, is it fair, is it manly, to question his professional acquirements? The chemical preparations employed by dyers and painters are very numerous, and not one of their names is chemical; and surely we are not to entertain a worse opinion of the abilities of a physician, because he is ignorant of their component parts, inasmuch as they have nothing to do with the practice of medicine.

I am sorry to find my partner, Copperas, capable of assailing a scientific member of the profession, from motives not the most honourable. Indeed, worthy coadjutor Copperas, I know thee from within; and, in future, let me intreat you not to shew a more decided partiality to the *animal* gall, than to your senior partner, and, Messrs. Editors, your sincere friend,

Chelmsford, May 12, 1822.

GALLS.

The term *copperas* has been long applied to three salts; viz. the sulphate of iron (green copperas, or green vitriol), the sulphate of zinc (white copperas, or white vitriol), sulphate of copper (blue copperas, or blue vitriol). In consequence of these different salts being termed vitriols, the College of Physicians, in the *Pharmacopœia* preceding their last, gave the mineral acid, which forms their base, the name of *vitriolic* acid!!

The green copperas, as our correspondent observes, is an impure sulphate of iron, made for dyers, and was never employed in medicine. The term being, however, very common, every medical man should be acquainted with the article to which it is applied. We would ask our correspondent, Galls, if it was not the duty of a medical man, to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the component parts of an article, and its effects on the system, previously to his giving an opinion of it in a Court of Justice, especially after having had a long notice of the object of his examination? We must confess, the evidence of the physician did not, at the time we read it, incline us to think favourably of his professional abilities; and as to the defence of his late teacher, on the minds of medical

men, it could not operate in favour of either of them. The term *copperas* was never applied to verdigrise.

IODINE.—A correspondent, who has given this article, with great success, in scrofulous affections of glands, the skin, and bones, requests us to recommend our medical subscribers to administer the tincture in the decoction of Iceland moss, when the patient is much emaciated. He states, that he has found the iodine, prepared in Germany, to be more pure and volatile than that he obtained from a maker of it in this country.

APOPLEXY.—We have been favoured with an article sold by M. Arnault, in Paris, for the prevention of apoplexy. The proprietor states, that it was discovered by his father, and that it has been the means of prolonging the lives of many thousand people, by being suspended round the neck by a ribbon, so that it may lie on the pit of the stomach. Like the nostrum-mongers of this country, motives of humanity have alone induced him to give it publicity, and to supply the public with it. On opening the parcel, (very neatly sewed, in the form of a pin-cushion, with a silk cover,) we found about a scruple of a preparation of iron, termed *Ens Veneris*, wrapped in a little coarse cloth!! The expense of the whole could not have exceeded a penny!! The humane proprietor's charge is only eight shillings!! That the application of such an article to the pit of the stomach should be capable of preventing plethora, or checking the determination of blood to the head, is truly preposterous. Now, if it acts by entering the system, it would be more likely to bring on apoplexy than to prevent it, in a person pre-disposed to the disease. The celebrated camphor bag is a better thing; for it is not only as capable of preventing apoplexy, but, at the same time, according to some reports, is a powerful preservative of chastity. The College of Physicians of Paris, after asserting that the nostrum trade is not allowed in France, will, no doubt, after our notice of this "preventive of apoplexy," pay some attention to the worthy proprietor, and reward him according to his deserts.

OLD APPLE-TREES.—A gentleman at Littlebury, in Essex, having in his orchard many supposed worn-out apple-trees, which produced fruit scarcely larger than a walnut, last winter, took fresh-made lime from the kiln, slacked it with water, and (without allowing time for its caustic quality being injured, by imbibing fixed air) well-dressed the trees, applying the lime with a brush. The result was, that the insects and moss were completely destroyed, the outer rind fell off, and a new, smooth, clear, healthy one formed; and the trees, although some twenty years old, have now a most healthy appearance.

It will readily occur to the reader, that the same treatment may be extended to other fruit-bearing trees, and probably with a similar beneficial effect.

DISTILLATION OF SPIRITS FROM GRAIN.—M. Debrunfaut, of Lisle, has ascertained, that when hard water is employed, instead of rain or river water, to ferment grain or sugar, the liquor will keep longer in a vinous state, and afford, on distillation, a greater quantity of alcohol. If these be facts, hard or well water should be employed to make domestic wines.

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VOL. VII.

THE LATE MR. GEORGE CHANDLER.

WE have, this month, to record the death of Mr. George Chandler, who, for nearly forty years, held the appointment of Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital. He was an active member of the late Corporation of Surgeons, a member of the Court of Examiners of the College of Surgeons, and one of the nineteen members of the Corporation, who, in the year 1796, applied to the Legislature, to grant that body the same powers which the College of Physicians had obtained from Henry VIII. viz. that of enforcing obedience to certain political bye-laws, which, in *their wisdom*, they might devise; and of nominating their successors. The injurious consequences of such an act to the progress of surgery, and their *real views*, were so satisfactorily exposed in both Houses, by 175 members of the Corporation, that the bill was almost immediately rejected; the late Lord Thurlow, having in strong terms censured the monopolising spirit of the Corporation, and contended that no such power should be given to any corporate body, especially when it was evident the ostensible object was to benefit themselves, and to exclude those members of the profession who received their education in any other school than that of London. The fate which this illiberal bill experienced, did not however discourage Mr. Chandler and his colleagues from making further efforts to carry their plans into effect. The junta accordingly applied to the late king to grant them a charter, similar in substance to the rejected bill, which His Majesty was induced to do, in consequence of the plausible representations of the advantages that would result from it to his liege subjects, and the urgent importunities of his Surgeon in Ordinary.

Although the surgeons of the united Hospitals of St. Thomas and Guy always paid great deference to the opinion of Mr. Chandler in obscure or complex cases, and although he maintained, for many years, a high character as an operator, and a surgeon of sound judgment, his private practice was so very trifling, that he was induced to give his friends to understand that he had relinquished it. The income he derived from the pupils at the Hospital, and from granting diplomas at the College of Surgeons, amounting to about fifteen hundred pounds annually, enabled him to live comfortably, and occasionally to entertain a few *musical* friends, to whose society he was partial. His appointments he held to the period of his dissolution, which took place on the 3d instant, at his house in Stamford Street, in the 75th year of his age.

He had for many years been afflicted with that distressing disease, the stone in the bladder; and notwithstanding it was often productive of considerable irritation and pain, his surgical friends could never prevail on him to submit to the operation of extraction. The arguments he had so often urged to his patients at the Hospital,

labouring under the same painful malady, had no effect on himself. To the operation of *Lythotomy on himself*, he had a most invincible objection; and when pressed to submit to it by the surgeons who he supposed were likely to become candidates for his Hospital appointment, his common observation was, "Ah, friends, friends, you need not get your circulars ready yet: I am now in the hands of a good Providence, and if I live abstemiously, or *rather rationally*, the disease will not shorten my days."

He did not consider his malady in so serious a light, as the leading surgeon of London* lately did, when he experienced a slight paralytic affection, which he ludicrously termed "*a notice to quit*." A dread of death, he attributed to a want of reflection, or a guilty conscience. To the reflective person, who has discharged his duty to his fellow-creatures agreeably to the Christian tenets, death can be no more terrific than sleep—one is as much the lot of man as the other. When his colleagues, Sir James Earl, and Sir Charles Blicke, received the titles of knighthood, he emphatically observed, "Nothing, in my opinion, exhibits stronger proofs of weakness, in medical men, than their acceptance of such titles. Real science is never accompanied by ostentation and vanity."

Mr. Chandler, although alive to all the discoveries and theories directly or indirectly connected with surgery, never made any communication to the profession, either through the medium of the periodical journals, or any publication of his own. He hastily decided on the merits of both, and in general he was correct. He has often condemned, with severity, the *motives* of some scribblers; and observed, "You will never see my name, nor Mr. Cline's, in print, as an author."

In the list of candidates for the vacant appointment of Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, we were glad to observe the name of Mr. Rowley, jun., a gentleman well acquainted with the state of surgery throughout Europe, having, after he left St. Thomas's Hospital, (where he had been the intimate pupil of Mr. Chandler for many years,) visited the principal hospitals on the continent. Among the surgical operations of this gentleman in London, we may notice the formidable one of tying the external iliac artery, first performed by Mr. Abernethy, which proved successful. The appointment of a surgeon of such abilities and experience, would indeed have been creditable to the governors of the charity; but merit does not always command success in the city. He was opposed by the son of the City Remembrancer, whose influence prevailed, to the great regret of those surgeons who are acquainted with the professional acquirements of Mr. Rowley. Mr. Tyrrel, the successful candidate, also holds the appointment to the City Eye Infirmary, where, we understand, he has boldly commenced operating on the eyes of the patients; but, as Professor Scarpa has observed, "a man must destroy a hat-full of eyes, before he can become a good operating oculist;" it will not be fair for us to make any comment on the results of his dexterity in operating, or the confidence he places in his own judgment.

* Sir Astley Cooper, Bart. &c. &c.

ATMOSPHERE.—We have lately met with an interesting work on a subject which has been much neglected by medical men in general, entitled “A General View of the Natural History of the Atmosphere, and its connexion with the Sciences of Medicine and Agriculture.” The author, Dr. Henry Robertson, has been long employed in the army, and was distinguished by the patronage of the late Duke of Kent. The work has been much recommended by the professors of agriculture and natural history at Edinburgh; and, in our opinion, very deservedly. The observant doctor’s reasoning is steady and scientific, his style plain and elegant, and the number of facts adduced, are not only instructive and entertaining, but evince the pains he has taken to render his work generally useful. It is in two volumes. The first embraces the physical properties of the atmosphere, in which he discusses its different phenomena, elucidating them upon the recent chemical discoveries; restricting himself, as much as possible, to the doctrine of inductive philosophy, whereby he has given the most satisfactory explanation of many of the most interesting meteors, very opposite to the theories which have been generally held respecting them. The work is written for general readers, as well as the professional student; and we should have had much pleasure in making extracts from this part, did the limit of our labours not restrict us to the consideration of that part of it which has a relation to medicine. This is principally considered under the heads of Climate and Contagion. Upon the first, the author properly observes, that every situation depends on local circumstances in modifying its climate; but that these are certain general properties of the atmosphere, upon which every climate depends. These, which he considers prevalent every where in a greater or less degree, he notices under the heads of variations of the temperature of the atmosphere, variations of the humidity of the atmosphere, and variation in its electrical states; and these conditions, as essentially depending upon the temperature of the atmosphere, may come within the consideration of that subject; for, strictly speaking, the general properties of a climate depend on the range of the heat of its atmosphere, the humidity it contains, and its electrical state depending upon this condition: still we do not think the author has done amiss in making the subdivision he has. In his introduction to this discussion, some very curious facts are given respecting the non-productiveness of certain animals and plants, when removed to a foreign climate; and the author applies his doctrine with great force in elucidating those diseases and states of the system, which occur in the various seasons, and which are supposed to depend on climate.

On this part of the doctor’s labours, we have no hesitation in saying, that it contains a more comprehensive view of the nature and effect of climate, than is given in any other work:—“Wherever the political government of a country,” observes the doctor, “is inimical to personal freedom, in which the *necessaries* and *conveniences* of life can be obtained with but little exertion, the inhabitants will become apathous and indolent; on the contrary, people living in climates where their natural wants can only be sup-

plied by much exertion and labour, become jealous of every attempt to circumscribe their rights, or whatever has a tendency to prevent the exercise of their faculties in the way that is of most advantage to themselves. In this point of view, the high temperature of a climate may be said to have an indirect effect in blunting the faculties of the mind, while that of a cold country will tend to rouse them; but, from the foregoing observations, we cannot discover how it should have such an influence in any other way.

"From these remarks, it will likewise be better understood why despotism, so destructive in general to mankind, operates in a peculiarly baneful manner upon the inhabitants of a cold country."

In vol. ii. p. 259, he observes, "there is a sprightliness of character and a luxuriance of imagination peculiar to men inhabiting a warm climate, which probably increase in approaching the tropics. The grandeur and sublimity of expression of eastern nations, have been the subject of admiration in every age. The elegance and freedom of manners of certain people of warm climates, and the lively disposition of those tribes who are not under the necessity of submitting to the rod of tyranny, either religious or political, have given rise to descriptions of manners more romantic and sublime, than are to be met with in any other language. The French have a predominant character at present, in these respects, above every other European nation; but there is the written evidence of former times to convince us, that the neighbouring nations of Italy and Spain excelled them in liveliness of manners, before the introduction of certain religious customs amongst them; and since that period, these people have gradually become so grave, that the Spaniards of the present day are not exceeded in sedateness of deportment by the most phlegmatic nations of the most northerly climates. Taking all these circumstances under review, it must appear that the commonly supposed effects of a higher temperature of the atmosphere on the active powers, has no direct influence in abating their energy; on the contrary, from the facts we have adduced, it seems rather probable, that, in a free, religious, and political state, the warmth of a climate tends to quicken the faculties, and to render them more energetic; indeed, without these advantages, man will become indolent in every country, and that too in the greatest degree where the medium temperature of the air is lowest.

In proceeding upon the question of contagion, which, we may observe, has not been specifically treated of since Fracastorius' essay on this subject, Dr. Robertson commences by an investigation to determine how far certain epidemic diseases, as the plague and typhus, are propagated by contagion; and, after a full discussion of the question, he comes to the following conclusions:

"1stly, It has been ascertained that no change of the ordinary physical or chemical properties of the atmosphere takes place in countries, during the prevalence of pestilential diseases. 2dly, The occurrence of epidemics is not prevented by the succession of seasons, nor by remarkable changes of weather; the plague, typhus, and other epidemics, having been observed to prevail for years,

without suffering any abatement of their virulence. 3dly, That although it be admitted that some of the most malignant species of epidemics arise from causes that are not originally of a contagious nature, yet this circumstance appears to be already sufficiently explained, as being the consequence of the malignant nature of those causes, having previously propagated a disease, which, in its course, has generated a matter, capable of producing a certain definite train of symptoms, at any distance from its original source; and it is owing to this peculiar circumstance, that it is frequently observed that the diseases, occasioned by contagion, very often do not resemble those in type, by which the contagious matter had been originally produced."

This doctrine the author has elucidated in several subsequent papers, written by him, on the plague and yellow fever of the Mediterranean. The latter, he is decidedly of opinion, is always dependent on local causes for its origin; on the other hand, he supposes that, although the plague is occasionally produced by a concurrence of local causes, in every case it spreads by the means of contagious matter, and is therefore propagated beyond its original source, but which never happens in the case of yellow fever. By a minute detail of facts, the doctor very ably refutes the idea of the property of the atmosphere in propagating contagion, which he seems inclined to suppose must have a different tendency during the prevalence of such diseases. "Had the power of the atmosphere, either as generating or propagating contagion, been considerable," the doctor thinks, "epidemic diseases must have been more frequent; and it does not," says he, "appear possible that, in these circumstances, any natural means could have been suggested, of ever getting rid of them, when once generated, and this world must, of course, have presented a barren untenanted surface."

After going fully into the subject of contagion, he proceeds to the discussion of the nature of the fluid, and of the manner by which it is introduced into the system, the different opinions upon which are brought fully before the reader; and having, with Dr. Currie, and some others, denied an absorbent power to the skin in a healthy state, our author infers that contagious vapours operate upon the system, through the medium of the lungs. He also seems inclined to think that its effects are more immediate after admission, than what has been hitherto supposed, and from which a modification of our quarantine regulations may be proposed. The work is evidently the production of a man of observation and experience. It was published some years ago at Edinburgh, and is there much better known than in this country; and we take much blame to ourselves that we have been thus tardy in bringing it under the notice of our readers, to whom we now recommend it, as containing all that is known on the important subjects it embraces.

EPILEPSY AND PALSY.—The Editors of the Philadelphia Journal have published a paper on the efficacy of the nitrate of silver, in the cure of epilepsy, from the pen of the Chevalier Sementine.

After some remarks on the difficulty which occurs in treating

such cases, and the good effects which have been observed in using the nitrate of silver, and its superiority in this respect over all other remedies, both as to the effect it produces, and the little inconvenience it causes, the Chevalier states: "To secure the good effects belonging to it, the nitrate of silver should be well triturated with a vegetable extract, in combination with which it should be given; that the first doses should be small, and the quantity gradually increased to six or eight grains, or even more, in a day; that the use should not be continued very long together; and that the patient should keep out of the action of light. The latter precaution is necessary to prevent the discoloration of the skin, which sometimes happens after a long and copious use of this remedy. This precaution, however, only relates to the rays of the meridian sun.

It frequently happens, during the use of this medicine, that a species of cutaneous eruption, consisting of small pustules, occurs. This may be regarded as a certain proof of the good effects of the medicine.

In the early part of this paper, the Chevalier, in endeavouring to remove the prejudice existing against nitrate of silver, on account of its poisonous qualities, remarks, that, being mixed with vegetable extract, is not really the salt, but the oxyde, that is given; and therefore the observations of M. Orfila, on the nitrate, as a poison, have nothing to do with the power of the remedy. At the same time, as an argument for using the nitrate in place of the oxyde, the Chevalier asserts, that, at the moment of decomposition, a combination is effected between the extract and the oxyde; and that, actually, the salt is found more efficacious.

Being satisfied of the beneficial effects of nitrate of silver in epileptic affections, and reasoning on its supposed tonic powers, the Chevalier was induced to give it a trial in palsy. The first instance quoted is of a gilder, who, he thinks, from the fumes of mercury, had become very paralytic. He commenced with an eighth of a grain of the nitrate of silver, and increased the dose every other day; and by the time three grains were taken, the good effects were evident, and in twenty days more the man was perfectly cured. In another instance, every part of the body and limbs were paralysed except the head; a small quantity was given at first, but it was increased to eight grains per day, and it effected a cure. Three other instances are then adduced, in all of which cures were effected; and the Chevalier expresses his hopes, that in the hands of other medical men it will be found as efficacious as in his own.

We lately met with a lady who had been subject to fainting fits, for which she took the nitrate of silver some months under the direction of Dr. Baillie. In a few weeks, the skin, which was previously very fair, became very dark; the remedy was continued, and in a few weeks more the skin exhibited the appearance of that of a negro, which continues, although she has not taken the medicine for the last six years. This effect is on the *rete mucosa*, and not on the cuticle, as generally imagined; for, on destroying the cuticle by a blister or caustic, the colour is the same after the reproduction of cuticle. The remedy had no effect on her malady.

DIABETES.—Dr. Trotter, of Newcastle, has published five cases of this disease, to illustrate the beneficial effects of pure magnesia; (well calcined magnesia,) in its cure. We select the two in which its operation was most decisive, and which we give in his own words.

Case 1st.—"J. H. aged fifty, a married woman, applied to me in November, 1821. She was tormented with thirst; drank eight quarts of water, and made eight quarts of urine in a day, of a peculiar smell, which grew frothy in a short time, and was quite like sugar to the taste. She was losing flesh, though she had a great appetite, and found herself growing weak. These complaints began about six months ago. She was ordered to take a drachm and a half of magnesia in twenty-four hours, which quickly opened her bowels, and the thirst ceased on the third evening; the water, at the same time, changed its taste and appearance, and the appetite became natural. The medicine was continued a week or ten days, and her health seemed quite restored, though her relatives had at first looked upon her case as deplorable."

Case 2d.—"A young woman, a servant, aged twenty-two. The disease commenced two years ago. She came to me in January last, and was considerably reduced. Having no relations, she was compelled to remain at service, but had now a humane mistress, who was kind to her, and, by a little charity from her physician, she was enabled to buy her medicine. The drink was about eight quarts in twenty-four hours; the urine rather more, sweet as honey, and of a frothy quality; the appetite voracious, and the bowels slow; the skin dry, and the thirst constant night and day; the menses disappeared seven months ago. The magnesia, to the amount of two drachms in the day, was immediately begun, and on the second day the thirst declined, and next day the urine fell to three quarts, and nearly natural in taste and smell. The appetite, also, was less keen, and the bowels profusely loose. In a week or two she found her strength greatly improved, and can now go through her work without feeling fatigued. There is, as yet, no appearance of the menses. Indeed, a complaint of such a nature, continuing for so long a time, could not fail to make serious inroads upon the constitution; and when it arrives at a certain point, there can be no recovery. The quantity of urine is now two pints, and sufficiently saline; but, though diabetes may not return, there is still some doubt of perfect health."

The learned Doctor thought it superfluous to make any experiments on the blood and urine in either of these cases, "as their appearance and nature were sufficiently ascertained before."

"The diet, in all these persons, was the usual fare of labouring people; and the effect of the medicine seemed not to vary, by any accidental change. That a diet entirely of animal matter should afford the saccharine quality to the urine, would seem to contradict the experience of the late Dr. Rollo on this subject." The Doctor, however, thinks that eminent physician viewed the pathology of diabetes too much as a chemical disease. "The omnipotence of a living principle in the system," observes the Doctor, "is not to be

denied; and whatever processes resembling chemical combinations may be produced in the body, they can only be vicarious of this administering power. The purgative effect of magnesia, as exhibited in these patients, plainly shews a predominant acidity in the stomach and bowels. This is probably the saccholactic acid, and involved in the process of deranged digestion. Many of the attendant symptoms can only be considered as sympathetic, with this extraordinary condition of the digestive powers."

The five cases of diabetes the Doctor has published, he observes, are the proportion that he had met with in ten thousand seven hundred persons of the labouring class, to whom he had given medical advice, since 1802; and many of them had come from very remote parts of this and the neighbouring countries. The Doctor states, that "he has known about twenty instances of this disease in all; but, from all the circumstances of sex, age, temperament, season, situation, employment, habits of life, &c., he could not discover any peculiar character of predisposition that gave birth to its singular train of symptoms."

In a former communication, the Doctor thought it necessary to warn physicians against the adulteration of *calcined magnesia*. What was employed so successfully by himself was magnesia free from carbonic acid.

"The simplicity of this treatment of diabetes," the Doctor hopes, "will be its recommendation to the ingenious and disinterested part of the profession; and to the confidence of their approbation, he leaves the future trials of the medicine."

CROTON OIL.—Mr. John Frost, in a Lecture lately delivered before the Medico-Botanical Society of London, emphatically observed, that whenever a new medicine is introduced into practice, it behoves every professional man to enquire into its history, with the view of discovering if it had been employed in former times, or in other countries, and if so, to endeavour to learn the reason of its having fallen into disrepute. In his inquiries respecting the Croton Oil, he has discovered that the first *correct* account of the plant which affords the seeds from which is it obtained, viz. the purging Croton (*Croton Tiglium* Lin.), appears in a work published in 1649, under the title of *Plantarum Historia Oxoniensis Universalis*, by Jacob Bobart. The accurate description this author has given of the shrub, certainly proves that he was well acquainted with it.

Mr. Frost very properly commented on two errors which appear in a recent publication by a Mr. Short, viz. of giving the Oil the name of '*Oil of Croton*,' instead of the Oil of the *Seeds* of the *purging* Croton, or *Croton Tiglium*; for of the genus *Croton* there are no less than eighty species, which essentially differ in their medicinal properties, and the term Oil of Croton is applicable to the Oil of any one of them. The other error is his representation of the oil, as a *most safe* medicine. There is no doubt, observed Mr. Frost, that the *true* Oil of the Seeds of the *Croton Tiglium*, in the dose of four drops, is capable of destroying the life of a person in health. In the quantity of one drop in those obstinate cases, which resist other cathartics, it may be administered with great advantage. Mr. Frost

stated, that he had applied the true Oil to the ends of the fingers, and that a sense of numbness in the arm, dryness of the throat, thirst, and head-ache, almost immediately followed, and continued for several hours. We can also state, from undoubted authority, that some excise officers, who from curiosity peculiar to these gentlemen, on applying to the end of the tongue the cork of a bottle besmeared with this oil, were almost immediately seized with violent purging, and one of them informed us, that in less than an hour, he had seventeen copious evacuations, attended with considerable griping pains. To diminish the violent action of this oil, Mr. Frost recommends it to be administered with an aromatic, or the seeds to be baked previously to the expression of the oil. The following form Mr. Frost particularly recommends :—

Take of the expressed Oil of the Seeds of the purging Croton, and of Oil of Cloves, of each, one drop.

Conserve of Hips, four grains.

Mix well together, and with a little liquorice powder, form into one or two pills.

The Croton Oil sold in London, Mr. Frost believes to be mixed with olive oil. The oil of the cortical part of the seeds of the castor oil plant, and the inspissated juice of the wild cucumber, Mr. F. has ascertained to be similar in their operations on the intestinal canal to the purging Croton Oil. Dr. Souchet, a French physician, informed us some months ago, that he had administered a saturated tincture of the external covering of the castor oil seeds in alcohol with the same effect as the Croton Oil, and that he was satisfied, from many experiments, that the base of the castor oil, which he terms *Ricinin*, is the same as the expressed oil of the purging Croton seeds. Sir George Tuthill, one of the Physicians to Bethlem Hospital, has fancied that the purging Croton Seed Oil is a purgative peculiarly adapted to maniacal cases ; and Dr. Pearson thinks he has found it beneficial in such instances, the maniacal patients having been more quiet after the operation than they were before it, but not more rational. It has also been said, that it has been successfully employed in a few cases of *tic doloureux*.

Mr. Frost, by his historical inquiries respecting the Croton Tiglium, has ascertained, what was indeed well known to the profession before he delivered his Lecture, that the Croton Oil is an old remedy revived, and that it fell into disuse in consequence of having produced such violent effects on the intestines as to destroy life. Applied to the skin, it is capable of exciting a blister.

A scientific practitioner in the country, informs us that he has found this oil to act more beneficially “ as a *bilious* purgative,” than calomel or any other medicine.

IODINE.—After the effects obtained by Dr. Coindet, in the cure of wen and scrofula, by the use of Iodine, and communicated by him to the Helvetic Society, which resolved immediately on publishing his memoir, the Clinical Institute, under the direction of Professor Brera, put this new remedy to the test ; not indeed in the case of wen, but to promote circulation and absorption in indolent parts, especially the liver and uterus. Five persons were

subjected, by the Professor, to these experiments. The preparation he preferred was the tincture we noticed in a late number.

Case 1st.—Maria Filippini, aged 18 years, had, until within these four months past, enjoyed excellent health; since then she has had suppression of the menses, and repeated spitting of blood. Being admitted into the Clinical Ward, the iodine was prescribed. In a few hours the spitting disappeared, and in a short time she was discharged, apparently in a state of health.

Case 2d.—Antonia Massa, 21 years of age, likewise wanting in her menstrual discharges, for some time past was taken with vicarious spitting of blood. The colour of the patient was yellowish, and shewed that she also was affected with diseased liver, probably the result of vascular energy.

The continued use of the iodine restored the functions of the uterus in such a manner, that twice the menses appeared for six days in succession. She is now perfectly restored to health.

Case 3d.—Catharine Phillini, 22 years of age, suffering under dysentery from suppressed menstruation, was cured by the continual use of the iodine.

Case 4th.—Giovanna Guerina, aged 16 years, entered the Clinical Institute with diarrhoea, reduced strength, suppression of the menses, and much emaciated. The tincture of iodine restored this patient to her primitive health.

Case 5th.—Maria Giacomini, 23 years of age, presented herself, complaining of prostration of strength, suppression of the menses, and, in place of them, a monthly loss of blood from the internal angle of the left eye. The complexion of the patient was jaundiced, and she shewed a state of preternatural assimilation in the greater number of the organic tissues, by a defect of vascular action. When put under the use of chalybeate remedies, she almost constantly vomited. The iodine alone was discovered to be eminently advantageous. After a few doses of the tincture, the hæmorrhage from the eye ceased, and true menstruation appeared in its place. The patient gained strength and colour; but the want of iodine prevented us from continuing our observations.

“It is worthy of remark,” observes Professor Brera, “that this remedy, beside its being endowed with the property of increasing vascular action, restoring sanguification, and re-establishing the ordinary sanguineous excretions, particularly from the uterus, on which it would seem to exercise a direct action, excites the functions of the stomach, so that, under its use, the appetite is renewed, and digestion goes on with celerity, and without inconvenience, even in females, and those with weak stomachs.”

Our correspondent at Hamburgh states, that the iodine has been much prescribed in Germany, in scrofulous, cutaneous, and pseudo-syphilitic cases, with the most decided benefit. The results of the numerous trials that have been made with the German iodine in this country, in scrofula, certainly confirms the favourable reports of its anti-scrofulous properties.

VEGETABLE CHEMISTRY.—Dr. Granville, having in vain searched all the English works on pharmacology for instructions for

the analysis of vegetables, has made an attempt "to supply the deficiency, by enumerating the different processes" he was taught to follow in the analytical examination of vegetable bodies, by his friends and preceptors, the justly celebrated M. Vanquelin, and the late Cadet de Gassicourt.

"The first steps to be taken," says Dr. Granville, "consist in examining the new vegetable body *physically*, and next as to its *chemical* properties. The colour, taste, flavour, smell, external appearance, botanical and physiological characters, state of aggregation, density, &c., belonging to the former inquiry; while the experiments made, with various tests, on the infusion, decoction, extract, and tincture of the bark, root, &c. under examination, belong to the latter.

"In describing the substance, and giving an account of the chemical experiments made with it, the same method should be adopted which has been followed during its analysis; and that method may be thus enunciated in the shape of general and aphoristic formulæ."

The following tables of chemical characters, given by the scientific Doctor, cannot fail to prove very acceptable to those readers who may have a taste for this very interesting part of chemistry.

A. PHYSICAL CHARACTERS.

1. Colour of the bark, root, &c.
2. Nature of its epidermis.
3. Thickness of the bark and the epidermis, individually.
4. Mode in which they adhere together.
5. Whether any of the woody fibres adhere to the epidermis.
6. Smell. Flavour. Perfume. Taste, permanent or evanescent.
7. Has the epidermis the same characters with the *liber*?
8. Is the bark easily powdered?
9. Does it readily attract moisture when exposed to the air?
10. Specific gravity of the bark.
11. Specific gravity when powdered.

B. CHEMICAL CHARACTERS.

a. Infusion.

1. A given quantity of the bark, coarsely powdered, infused in a sufficient quantity of cold water for a given number of hours.
2. Filter. Weigh the filtered infusion and the dry residuum on the filter. Examine the smell, taste, colour, and flavour of the infusion.
3. The filtered infusion should now be tried by
 - a. Isinglass. b. Tartarized antimony. c. Prussiate of potash.
 - d. Nitrate of barytes. e. Oxalic acid. f. Sulphate of iron.
 - g. Supersulphate of alumine. h. Sulphate of copper. i. Oxalate of ammonia. k. Gallic acid. l. Lime-water. m. Tincture of galls.
 - n. Turmeric paper. o. Litmus paper.
4. Mark, in writing, the result of each experiment, and of every precipitate that follows; dry the latter, weigh them, and keep them for further examination.

b. Decoction.

1. A given weight of the bark, or root, coarsely powdered, boiled in a sufficient quantity of distilled water, to the reduction of one-third.

2. Filter the decoction, mark its colour, taste, flavour, perfume.

3. Test it with the same re-agents, and note the results; and whether or not they be similar to those obtained in treating the infusion.

c. Extract.

1. The same given quantity of bark, root, or plant, coarsely powdered, is to be subjected to the action of boiling water several successive times. The different decoctions, added together, are to be slowly evaporated, in large vessels, to the consistence of extract. The extract to be weighed; the colour, taste, &c. noted.

2. Ascertain how much of the extract is dissolved in alcohol. Mark the taste, colour and smell, of the resulting tincture.

3. Test the tincture by

a. Distilled water. b. Emetine, gelatine, litmus and turmeric paper, oxalic acid, carbonate of potash; and write down the result. c. Sulphate of iron. d. Nitrate of barytes. e. Nitrate of mercury. f. Nitrate of silver. g. Prussiate of potash.

4. If any residuum be left after treating the extract with alcohol, subject it to the action of distilled water, exposing it to a gentle heat at the same time, and trying the solution, if any, with the above tests.

d. Alcoholic Infusion.

1. A given weight of the bark, root, &c., coarsely powdered, is to be infused into a known quantity of alcohol for a given number of days.

2. The smell, colour, taste, perfume, &c. of the resulting infusion, are to be noted.

3. The infusion is to be tested with

a. Distilled water. b. Gallic acid. c. Sulphate of iron.

4. The residuum, after filtering the alcoholic infusion, is to be weighed and examined.

e. Distilled Tincture.

1. The alcoholic infusion should be next distilled in a glass retort.

2. Observe whatever phenomena may occur during the distillation.

3. The result of the distillation should be tested with

a. Distilled water. b. Prussiate of potash. c. Sulphate of iron.

4. Dry the residuum; weigh it, note its colour and consistency, and whether it attracts moisture.

5. Is it soluble in water?

6. Is it soluble in alcohol, ether, oil of turpentine, caustic, alkaline solution?

7. In either case, try the solution with the usual re-agents.

Dr. Granville particularly recommends his paper as a supplement to Mr. Thompson's Dispensatory, and Dr. Paris's Pharmacology, the

Authors of which he terms his *friends*, and their works "*valuable and excellent* publications." When a man publishes a work, especially on Medicine, it becomes *public* property, and personal friendship should have no influence on the mind of the Reviewer. The absurdities and quackery in the pharmaceutical part of Dr. Paris's work, we have already pointed out. The contemptible chemistry of it, as far as it regards prescriptions, or the analysis of vegetables, we have not exposed, in consequence of having been informed that a new edition is in the press ; as soon as that edition appears, we will carefully go through the chemistry of it, and give it the character we find it to merit. If we should find any thing to commend, we shall be most agreeably surprised, for

"We know him from within

His shallow pate, to his utmost skin."

Mr. Thompson's Dispensatory, we intend to notice in our next number.

CUTANEOUS ERUPTION.—Mr. Fosbroke, a respectable practitioner of Berkeley, has lately administered the *dilute* sulphuric acid in *large doses*, with the decoction of the inner bark of the elm and the wood of the garden night-shade (*solanum dulcamara*) in tetter and ring-worm, with complete success. The disease in which he has found it most beneficial is that species of tetter termed by Dr. Willan, the *lichen agrius*. Mr. Fosbroke also ordered the parts affected to be washed twice a day with a decoction of the deadly night-shade (*atropa belladonna*) which he found immediately to allay the attendant irritation, or, as his patients expressed themselves, to *dead*en the disease : and to this lotion we are more inclined to attribute the beneficial effects of his treatment, than to the use of the internal remedies. Dr. Willan recommends the dilute sulphuric acid in an infusion of roses, with the Peruvian bark ; but Mr. Fosbroke states, that the quantity of the acid he prescribes, is much too small to produce a *specific* effect on the disease. We do not consider it a safe practice to continue the dose of thirty drops of the *dilute* sulphuric acid three times a day, longer than a week ; practitioners should keep in mind the proportion of sulphuric acid in the dilute acid of the last London Pharmacopœia, which is double in quantity to that of the preceding one. This alteration in the strength of a popular remedy has been productive of much mischief, in consequence of its being used in compounding receipts which were published anterior to the publication of the whimsicalities of our Royal College.

The dilute sulphuric acid has lately been successfully exhibited by Dr. Gahn, and others in Germany, in cases of itch. It was employed for this purpose, so far back as the year 1756, by Dr. Cothenius, a Prussian physician of great celebrity. Professor Duncan, of Edinburgh, observes, "I have *thoughts* of putting this patient on the use of the sulphuric acid, a medicine which has of late been particularly recommended for the cure of the itch ; and I am told, the efficacy of it has been fully confirmed, both in cases of the dry and humid itch, by that able Physician Dr. Baldenger, of Gottingen." The Professor concludes, "If the internal use of the acid should fail, I have *thoughts* of trying it externally ; for when conjoined with hog's

lard, it forms a very elegant ointment." Now, notwithstanding the *experience* of Galen and Cothenius, and the *thoughts* of Professor Duncan, we are satisfied that the itch is not to be cured by an internal remedy. An unhealthy state of constitution unquestionably favours the disease, and therefore internal remedies may act as powerful auxiliaries to topical applications, and in the majority of cases they are necessary; but no *English* practitioner, except the *fee* collectors of Oxford and Cambridge, would entertain *thoughts* of curing a *local* disease of the skin by *internal* remedies. For cutaneous affections, either as an internal or external remedy, the sulphur-ous acid will be found more beneficial than the sulphuric.

COW-POX.—About three years ago, we gave the particulars of a fatal case of cow-pox, which occurred in the practice of Dr. Lucas, of Hatfield, a physician of great experience and scientific attainments. The Doctor, it seems, after taking three years to reflect on the case, has thought proper, probably to relieve his mind, to publish the case in the Medical Repository. The following is his own narrative of it:—

"C—C—, son of the Rev. M—C—, aged seven months, having been in perfect health from the day of his birth, was vaccinated, June 26, 1819, with lymph obtained from the National Vaccine Establishment, and, as appears by particular inquiry since made, from an unexceptionable subject. Two punctures were made in each arm, all of which, except one on the right arm which missed, put on the most favourable appearance; and, at the end of the eighth day, afforded as perfect an example of the disease as could be seen. At this time one of the vesicles on the left arm was punctured, without drawing blood, and lymph taken, with which two elder children of Mr. C. were re-vaccinated, after an interval of some years, to afford a test of their security. On the following morning, an areola of inflammation, of the usual extent and appearance, surrounded the vesicles; and in the evening the child was taken rather suddenly ill with fever and uneasiness, with a slight *expression* of tenesmus. The arm was not again examined till the next morning, the tenth of the disease, when the inflammation extended from the shoulder to the wrist, considerable fever being present. *Cold rose water* was applied to the limb; and the child was purged well with calomel, antimonial powder, and rhubarb. On the following day, the inflammation had spread over the left breast, top of the shoulder, and shoulder blade; the pulse very rapid, about fifteen strokes in five seconds; and the child lay in a quiet, half comatose state, but crying much when disturbed; he, however, took the breast very freely, and occasionally a little gruel. The purgative was repeated with effect; and a *warm* lotion applied, with three parts of the liq. ammon. acet., one part of alcohol, and four parts of water. On the twelfth day, the inflammation having somewhat abated, the lotion was laid aside; but increasing again considerably in extent and intensity, on the thirteenth it was resumed. From this time, the inflammation continued to extend itself, gradually receding from the parts first attacked, until it successively covered the whole body and limbs, except the feet, and upper parts of the face and head;

a degree of œdema following it, particularly affecting the scrotum and lower limbs. The bowels were kept open by the Epsom Salt; from six to twelve daily evacuations being procured through the whole course of the disease. These were greenish, curdly, and somewhat slimy; but not differing materially, as the mother said, from the usual evacuations of the child. The pulse continued rapid, never under twelve or thirteen strokes in five seconds; but the child continued to suck freely, and to take gruel at intervals, expressing little uneasiness except when moved. The symptoms continued in this state until the seventeenth day, when sickness came on, with some fulness of the belly; and on the morning of the eighteenth day, the child died, with every appearance of *internal* mortification; the abdomen being very tumid, with livid colour of the integuments in patches; and a great quantity of thin, dark-coloured fluid being dejected by vomiting through the mouth and nostrils. The body was *not* opened; but there is, I think, every reason to believe, that the same inflammation affecting the mucous membrane of the bowels was the *immediate* cause of the fatal event; as the child had outlived the external inflammation, which, however, did not entirely disappear until within twelve hours of its death. At what time the internal inflammation made its attack, is uncertain, as there were no exclusive symptoms to point out its existence; but it is probable that it commenced with the first attack of fever. About three days before its death, the child took several little boatsful of gruel with great avidity, probably from a sense of internal heat.

"The fatal disease was completely masked under the external inflammation, which had much the character of the *reseola vaccina*, as described by Dr. Bateman; the painful state of the surface accounting for the uneasiness expressed upon movement of the body; whilst the open state of the bowels, and exercise of the functions of the stomach, contributed to support the delusion.

"In similar cases, would it not be safer practice to abstain from all external applications, allowing the cutaneous inflammation to spend itself unchecked upon the surface, and using only the most diligent means to subdue the inflammatory excitement of the system?

"That in this unfortunate case, vaccination was the exciting cause of the disease which proved fatal, there can be little doubt; but as it must also be supposed, that the violence of the inflammation depended rather upon some peculiar constitutional irritability of the skin, than upon any virulent property of the vaccine fluid, it is to be hoped that it will not operate as a check upon the practice of vaccination."

It certainly appears to us most extraordinary, that a physician, who received his education in the schools of surgery and pharmacy, should introduce so ridiculous a question relative to the propriety of external applications. The only proper question in our humble opinion is, If topical applications had been resorted to when the inflammation shewed a disposition to extend itself beyond the usual limits, and had been steadily persevered in, would not the result have been different? Surely Dr. Lucas will not deny that the disease for some days was topical; and, if so, was not topical management necessary

when the inflammatory action was running unusually high? The fatal termination of this case is no doubt attributable to an unhealthy state of the constitution, and perhaps no local nor constitutional treatment would have prevented it; yet, however, we confess, in such a case, in an infant at the breast, we should have preferred purgative or alterative doses of calomel to Epsom salt, nor should we have applied a spirituous lotion to the inflamed part in a *warm* state. If in such an unhealthy subject so simple a disease as cow pox was capable of producing such serious mischief, what would have been the effects of small pox? We presume no medical man, however prejudiced he may be against cow pox, will say that the result of small pox inoculation would not have been equally disastrous.

MEDICINAL SPRINGS.—SIRS—I was present a short time since, where the conversation turned upon natural productions; and medicinal springs being alluded to, a person remarked, that it was strange, that although, by the assistance of chemical knowledge, the constituent principle and proportion of these waters had been ascertained, yet, however carefully they may be imitated, it is found that the artificial compound does not produce the same medicinal effects as the natural water. To this remark, a reply was made, that the peculiar and more valuable properties of medicinal springs arise *probably* from some secret condition of the water, occasioned by their formation in the *large bulk and quantities* which Nature fabricates in her exhaustless laboratory; and to strengthen this opinion by a familiar analogy, it was asserted, as a fact known to many, and particularly to seamen, that grog made with half a pint of rum, and a pint of water, is neither so pleasant nor so strong as if made in the quantity of three gallons of the spirit, with six gallons of water; and that the difference in strength is positively proved by taking the specific quantity of a portion of each mixture by the hydrometer. An inquiry into the true nature of this subject offers a very interesting field to the experimental naturalist; and I should feel particular pleasure, if any of your ingenious correspondents would communicate, through the medium of your Gazette, any knowledge they may possess, or any conjectures they may form relative to it.

I am, Sirs,

London, May 20, 1820.

AN INQUIRER.

CHAMPOOING.—A correspondent inquires, if this operation is of modern invention, and asks, if it be really efficacious in the cure of diseases? It doubtless originally arose, and still exists, as a custom of some of the eastern countries, and was, by them, instituted more as a luxury than a remedy. The place appropriated for the purpose, is constructed of several apartments, each artificially heated to different degrees of temperature. After having gradually and progressively gone through the series of heated chambers, from the lowest to the highest degree of temperature, the person is carried to the bath, after which he is carefully and gently rubbed dry with materials of the softest fabric. He is then laid upon downy cushions, and is gently kneaded and pressed by a soft hand, over every part of the body; his joints are delicately, yet dexterously extended; his limbs flexed and rotated into their utmost variety of natural move-

ments; and the pleasing languor which the voluptuous enjoyment had occasioned having been dispelled, he rises with the suppleness and freedom of motion of youth itself. According to Father Hennepin, who was taken prisoner by the Illinois, and afterwards published a "New Discovery of a large Country in America," nearly a century and a half ago, the North American Indians have had, from time immemorial, a method of curing fevers, and other diseases, similar to the above; but certainly without its pleasures or its elegance. He says, "that his master, observing that I could not well rise without two or three to help me, ordered a stove to be made, into which he caused me to enter stark naked, with four savages. This stove was covered with the skins of wild bulls, and in it they put flints and other stones, red hot. They ordered me, by signs, to hold my breath time after time, as long as I could; which I did, as well as those that were with me. As soon as the savages that were with me had let go their breath, which they did with a great force, Aquipagué, the Indian Chief, began to speak with a loud and thundering voice; the others seconded him; and, laying their hands on my body, began to rub it, and at the same time to weep bitterly. I was like to fall into a swoon, and so was forced to quit the stove. At my coming out, I was scarce able to take up my habit of St. Francis, to cover me withal, I was so weak; however, they continued to make me sweat thrice a week, which at last restored me to my pristine vigour, so that I found myself as well as ever."

According to Captain Cooke, a similar custom prevails at Otaheite; for, being ill whilst he was there, Oherea ordered him to be stripped, and rubbed for some time by her servants.

Cham-pooing has been but little used in this country, (but more in Ireland than in England, we believe); and, though Brighton possesses its Professor, who has commodiously fitted up his baths, &c. and obtains a respectable practice, it is unlikely that it will ever become a very general remedy, not because it is undeserving popular attention, but that it is expensive, in many circumstances inconvenient, and will never be adopted and practised by the medical profession at large. In chronic diseases of muscular and fibrous parts, such as rheumatism, contraction and rigidity of the limbs and joints, the effects of sprains, bruises, or other injuries, &c. &c., it is a valuable remedy; and we have heard many stiffened invalids speak with almost equal veneration of *Mahomed* of Brighton, as the Musselman devotees do of his sacred name-sake at Mecca.

ON THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE LIVER.—In concluding our observations on the several secretions of the body, (at page 107,) we promised to resume the subject at a future time, and to explain the physiology of the *liver* in particular. A correspondent having called upon us to redeem the pledge we then gave, we now comply, as far as the confined limits of the present number will allow us.

There is no organ of the body which has more engrossed the inquiries and labours of the physiologist, or more engaged popular interest and anxiety, than the liver. The ancients, sensible of its

importance, yet ignorant of its real uses, entered into the wildest hypotheses, and the absurdest fancies respecting it; most of which have been consigned to disregard, by the improvements in modern medicine. Such a general attention to this organ appears very natural, when we consider, that in bulk it is the most considerable viscus in the body; that its connexion with other parts of the system are numerous and important; that its functions involve a series of actions, not only of its own, but of various other organs, on the integrity of which, the well-being of the body depends; that its diseases are amongst the most common ailments to which we are liable; and that its derangements induce a morbid state of the most vital parts of the animal machine; the bowels, the lungs, the heart, and even the brain itself, becoming the victims of its overwhelming sympathies.

The liver is a solid mass, of a dark red colour, somewhat inclining to yellow, seated in the upper part of the abdomen, to the right side*, which contains the greatest portion of it; stretches across the pit of the stomach, and reaches, in a small degree, into the left side of the abdomen. Its exact position is better understood by thus describing its boundaries. Its superior surface is in contact with the diaphragm (the membrane which separates the belly from the chest,) whilst its inferior surface (covering the stomach and part of the intestines) does not extend below the margin of the ribs, unless near the pit of the stomach. It fills almost entirely the right side of the abdomen, rests upon the right kidney, touches the bottom of the breast bone, at the pit of the stomach, and at its posterior side reclines upon the spine. It is supported by the stomach and bowels, and the abdominal muscles, and is preserved steady in its situation by membranous ligaments attached to the diaphragm and to the muscles of the abdomen. The liver appears firmer than any other of the viscera; but yet it is much more easily broken down and torn: this is owing to the weakness of the texture that binds its parts together. We have shewn, in a former number, that glands were bodies made up by contorted arteries; and we then hinted at a difference in structure between these glands in general and the liver, which difference mainly consists in this: that the latter, instead of being derived, like other secreting organs, from the arterial system, is principally formed by the venal. The veins which receive the returning blood from the stomach, the intestines, the mesentery, the spleen, the pancreas, and the omentum, having united and chosen a course toward the right side, again divide; and ramifying into millions of subdivisions, which are wound up into the most intricate mass, form that glandular body to which we have given the name of liver†. The minute extremities

* Previous to birth, the liver occupies nearly as much of the *left* side as the right; but afterwards the proportion gradually lessens; and at five years old it occupies principally the right side, in the same relative degree that it preserves during the remainder of life. In the foetus, also, it falls lower than the margin of the ribs.

† It is not to be understood that this venous distribution constitutes the *sole* structure of the liver: it has necessarily component

of these veins are the points where the blood which they convey is elaborated into bile, which is immediately received into another set of vessels; the extremities of which are equally minute, and communicate with the secerning points of the former: these, gradually collecting and uniting, at length form one large trunk, which conveys the bile from the liver into the bowel a little below the stomach, the place to which Nature has destined it: this is the excretory duct of the liver*.

Thus it is seen, that the liver is the largest viscus in the body; that its structure differs widely from that of other glands; and its secretion is furnished by the blood from a different system to that of other organs; and hence we must conclude, that it performs a very important function in the human machine.

A slow and tardy motion of the blood through the liver, is a necessary consequence of its peculiar venal structure; the vital stream not being carried by arteries, wants the impulse that is communicated to the contents of the vessels, whose trunks spring at once from the heart: hence it must be more liable to obstruction, with its various consequences, and less subject to acute and violent inflammation than other internal organs. Accordingly we find, that congestion, and slow and insidious inflammation, productive of chronic disease and structural derangement, are the most frequent disorders of this viscus; and the pain attendant upon them being of a dull and obscure kind, often passes almost unnoticed by the patient: and it is not till after death sometimes, that extensive disease of the liver is detected, that had not so much as been suspected during life. *Acute* inflammation, however, of this organ, does take place, and the attendant pain is extremely severe; but, in this case, it is probable, that the inflammation is seated rather in the membrane that covers it, than in the substance of the liver itself, as this membranous covering has a more quick and energetic circulation of blood through it in consequence of deriving its blood-vessels from the arterial system.

The singular means that Nature has adopted for the preparation of bile, is contemplated, then, with more than common attention; and, though men most celebrated for genius and talent, have carefully and assiduously gone into the inquiry, we are, perhaps, at this moment, far from understanding the real nature of the process, or the consequences effected by it upon the system at large. The liver being the only instance in the body of a secreting gland being supplied with the material for its office from the veins, leads us to

parts derived from other sources; but the former, composing that part of its substance in which its secretory functions reside, the rest may be considered as subservient to it.

* It would be unnecessary to enter minutely into a description of the anatomy of the liver. We shall therefore not notice its artery, returning veins, absorbents, nerves, &c.; so much only of its structure as is connected immediately with its function, and thence relatively with its diseases, is interesting to or deserving the attention of the general reader.

an inquiry into the probable cause of this curious deviation from a law, to which this alone forms an exception. Under this consideration, that the secretion of the bile, as a fluid necessary to stimulate the bowels, and assist in digestion, should constitute the sole use of this immense gland, is a conclusion drawn from effects extremely disproportioned to the apparent design; and if limited to the narrow views of such consideration, we might be induced to question the wisdom of the Divine Architect in the nature of the means provided for this purpose. But that the separation of the bile does effect some other intention, begins now to be generally admitted; and we shall proceed to point out the most probable nature of it in the following consideration of the functions of the liver.—(*To be continued*).

SORE NIPPLES.—Sirs—I am induced to send you the enclosed receipt for a lotion for sore nipples, in consequence of having found it to succeed, after the usual applications failed. I have also employed it, with complete success, in cases of chapped lips, chilblains, and leprous affections of the skin. Its beneficial effects I attribute to the mild digestive property of the oil of juniper, which, by producing a healthy secretion of pus, in the place of an unhealthy, irritating discharge (the cause of the obstinacy and great sensibility of chaps and small ulcerations of the nipples,) speedily produces cicatrisation. Attention should, of course, be paid to the stomach, bowels, and the state of system, with respect to fever, relaxation, &c.

I am, Sirs, Your very obedient servant,

London, May 21, 1822.

J. P. R.

Lotion for Sore Nipples, &c.

Take of Essential Oil of Juniper, 6 drops;

Rectified Spirit of Wine,

Elder Flower Water, of each, half an ounce.

Dissolve the Oil in the Spirit, and then add the Elder Flower Water. To be filtered through paper, applied to the part affected, by means of lint, or soft old linen, two or three times a day.

POISONS SWALLOWED.—Mr. Jukes informs us, that his professional avocations, during the present month, have not permitted him to resume the consideration of his proposed plan of emptying the stomach by mechanical means, so as to establish, in all its bearings, the theory which he ventured to express, in the article which appeared in our last number. He has, however, favoured us with the following account of experiments, the results of which are very interesting:

Experiment 1st.—An elastic gum tube, fitted to a pint bottle, (of a similar material,) was passed into the stomach of a moderate sized terrier dog, and a pint of warm water thrown into it, by compressing the vessel. Upon removing the pressure, the bottle, by its elasticity, regained its usual dimensions, by which, a vacuum being formed, the liquid contents of the stomach rushed through the tube, and instantly re-filled the bottle.

Experiment 2d.—Two ounces of laudanum was swallowed by the same animal, and having remained a few minutes, a pint of warm water was injected into the stomach by the before-mentioned apparatus. The liquid returned, highly tinged and flavoured with opium.

Another pint of water was now thrown in, which returned but slightly impregnated with it; and a third quantity being introduced and withdrawn, shewed no signs of any thing foreign, except here and there a floating flake or two of the mucus of the stomach. The dog being loosed, betrayed no symptoms of uneasiness, and soon afterwards made a hearty meal; no effects from the narcotic following.

Experiment 3d.—Two drachms of laudanum was forced into the throat of a large spaniel, and in a few minutes afterwards a pint of warm water, injected through the tube, passed into the stomach. The water returned, mixed with a good deal of the chymous contents of the stomach, smelling strongly of the laudanum. A second pint of water was thrown in, which returned mixed with the same pulpy, demi-gelatinous matters as before, and impregnated, though less sensibly than the former, with opium. A third pint of water returned only a little turbid, and the faint peculiar smell of opium was scarcely to be recognized. A fourth portion, when withdrawn, was hardly at all changed, except in losing its transparency, and neither by the taste or smell, evinced the presence of opium. *The animal was not, subsequently, the least affected.*

REMARKS:—By the first experiment it was established, that the stomach of the animal might be emptied by the apparatus used.

The second experiment proved, that the laudanum contained in the stomach of the animal being diluted by and withdrawn in the injected liquid, no harm resulted to the dog from the administration of the poison.

My object, in the third experiment, was to ascertain if there was any liability of failing, in diluting a *smaller* quantity of laudanum in the stomach of a *larger* dog; and the result was, that the stomach of the animal, containing some quantity of food, required the more frequent application of the apparatus to withdraw its contents; but at the same time I think it probable, that *had this organ been empty, a larger quantity* of fluid would have been requisite, (to distend the stomach so sufficiently that none of the laudanum should have escaped, by being concealed in its plicæ, or folds,) than was used in the former experiments.

Not having obtained a perfect apparatus for conducting my experiments beyond the foregoing, in a satisfactory manner, I shall not at this time enter into a farther detail. I expect, in a few days, to be furnished by Mr. Gill, surgical instrument maker, of Bedford Row, with such an improved apparatus, as shall insure the full success of the proposed practice, when I shall resume my experiments and their report.

Westminster, June 26, 1822.

We cannot speak too warmly of Mr. Jukes's ingenuity and zeal; and we would, at the same time, recommend a similar ardour to the profession at large. The views of individuals, however respectable, are considerably facilitated by the assisting experiments of others; and, we understand, Mr. Gill, (whose ingenuity has afforded Mr. Jukes many useful hints,) is preparing to furnish the necessary instruments.

The plan to which we alluded in our last number, suggested by Mr. Jukes, to obviate the fatal effects of laudanum, and other poisons taken into the stomach, is not yet sufficiently matured to be submitted to public opinion. In our next, however, we shall give Mr. Jukes's view of the subject.

HEALTH, &c. OF FEMALES.—A very valuable work has lately appeared on the influence of habits and manners, on the health of Females of this country, from the pen of Dr. Ralph Palin, under the title of "*Observations on the Influence of Habits and Manners national and domestic, upon the Health and Organization of the Human Race, and particularly on the effect of that influence, as it relates to the present state of English Females in the higher and middle classes of life.*" If the character and disposition of a female depend more on the early impressions she receives from her parents, than on subsequent ones, as asserted by some intelligent correspondents, it must be allowed, that the permanent health of her body, as asserted by others, very materially depends on the management of the early period of her life. This early period, Dr. Palin defines to be "that progressive state which precedes the full developing of the system," and, observes the learned author, "according to the principles which regulate the *physical* education during this progress, the *constitution* will be improved, or otherwise, and the whole train of conservatory movements receive the impressions of strength and weakness."

From the various modifications, we observe taking place in the human race, under the different effects of climate, manners, and habits; and from the various operation of local circumstances on the animal system; little doubt can be entertained, but that it might be possible, by means well conceived, and wisely adapted, to act so far upon the constitution, as to improve the particular nature of every individual. While general causes are always acting upon the temperament of nations, and produce impressions the most varied; particular ones operate not less certainly upon individuals; and hence the physical education becomes an object of importance, not only from its reference to the *animal* system, but to the *moral* constitution. It is from the effects of their mutual and reciprocal influence, that we should direct our particular attention to the relations, which exist between the state of the *vital* stamina and the *social* affections;—between the temperament of the *body*, and the feelings and dispositions of the *mind*; in order to render every improvement, in the physical nature of the human species, a step towards a relative degree of improvement in the moral order.

"To develop the operation of those combinations of causes and effects, on the human economy, which are continually acting and reacting upon each other, so as to be able to anticipate their results, and adopt rules to meet each indication, by which utility and advantage shall follow to the system, may appear a difficult task; and it is rendered more difficult in proportion to the advance of civilization. But complicated as the human machine is, in its various parts, and complex as are the designs of nature, she is nevertheless simple in her means. For though so multiplied the human sympathies; though so delicate and extensive the sensibilities

of an organization, possessing so much suppleness and mobility; and though the phenomena of life have such various force; yet they all bear the same uniform relation to certain principles, which govern the movements of the system. These principles, as far as relates to the management of the animal economy, are few and easily understood. It is by them that is regulated the important task, which parents have to study in the early care of their offspring;—important certainly in every sense of the word, since the physical education, in the first stages of life, not only determines the character of the constitution and temperament, as the moral education does that of the mind; but embraces and involves all that chain of causes and effects, which unite both in a uniform correspondence and sympathy.

“The following remarks form an attempt at the developing of those principles, before referred to, upon which so much depends, in that part of life, which may be said to be most eventful in respect to the future.—The subject which this little work comprehends, may be said to divide itself into three parts; and perhaps it would have been a more perspicuous way of treating it, if such division had been introduced into the body of the work.

“The two first chapters, which might form the first part, relate to the influence of climate upon the human system, connected with those impressions, which attach to it, from the action of the great phenomena of nature upon the peculiar phenomena of life; and with those modifications which it produces, under different circumstances, in the female constitution.

“The five subsequent chapters, which might be termed the second part, refer to the influence of artificial habits, as they are diversified by the effects of climate, upon the animal system; and to the modifications, we have it in our power to make, according as the principles just mentioned shall direct our management of early life; for artificial manners and habits may have opposite effects, from the manner in which they are regulated; they may support the best views and designs of nature, or they may frustrate them.

“The eighth chapter, which might form the third part, refers to the consequences, which, under our climate, often follow, in the female constitution; when the principles, which ought to form the guide of their physical education, give place to others which produce opposite effects.”

We have received much pleasure, and, we have no hesitation in saying, much valuable original information from the perusal of Dr. Palin's work. Every page is so replete with sound sense and useful matter, that we find it impracticable to lay before our readers a concentration of it.

The following extract will enable them to form an opinion of the Doctor's style, and of his competency to write on a subject of such great importance to society in general.

“There are some parents who are fond of pursuing a system of mortification towards their children, and are weak enough to think that a certain sum of early pain and vexation, forms a necessary part of the initiation of youth into the world. But they who are qualified

to consider the relation of diseases by remote sympathies, will have no difficulty in conceiving in what way mental uneasiness may become the source of great physical evil, particularly in very young persons, who generally possess a fibre peculiarly irritable, and have great sensibility. Such a cause not only lays the foundation in many cases of a bad temper, and malignant disposition, but promotes the action of the latent tendencies to disease.

"A frequent origin of diseases, according to the ablest physiologists, and according to the mass of facts, which experience daily presents to us, arises from the increased momentum of blood to certain parts of the system. Thus the anxious sensations of children may produce this impulsion to the head, as the secretion of tears which so generally accompanies such feelings, and implies an excessive determination to the capillaries of the part, sufficiently testifies; and it is by unloading certain branches of the arteries of the head, that from this source is experienced that sensible relief, of which there are few but must have been at some time or other conscious. The influence of mental affections, according to their different character, in removing or producing disorders, has been often treated of by authors, and some have attempted to explain their *modus operandi* on principles equally adapted to the influence of every other cause of morbid or salutary change. But as we in vain attempt to form our calculations of vital action, by the invariable nature of the laws which preside over physical phenomena; we shall as vainly endeavour to explain the operations of the mental affections, upon the general system of any pathological reasoning or deduction we are enabled to make. Nor is this important. We have only to observe the manner in which strong feelings act to judge of the comparative influence of less powerful impressions. Correspondent to the degree in which sensations exert their influence, a reaction is produced, which we distinguish by the term emotion. The agitation produced by the first sensation, is immediately communicated to the whole nervous system; and according to the nature of the impression made upon the mind, a commensurate sympathy is felt in the animal economy. To reiterated or continued emotions, affections succeed; considering the term applicable to an unpleasant as well as a pleasant state of the feelings: thus a certain train of agreeable emotions produce those affections which increase the force of the vital energies, while emotions of a different nature tend to depress them. Feeling as we do at all ages how much our relish and enjoyment of life depend upon the state of the mind, we cannot for a moment doubt its influence at that early period, when the frame is most susceptible. Under circumstances of great anxiety, with what activity do the vital properties sympathize!—With what rapidity do they pass from the highest to the lowest degree of energy!—The whole habit feels disordered,—the muscular fibres lose their tone, and the stomach becomes affected:—such is the subserviency we involuntarily pay to the nervous influence, which, to the animal system, is what the sun is to the flower. What indeed has aptly and poetically been termed the sunshine of the mind, has in every part of life the same happy effects; but its presence is the most indispensable in that early stage,

when the developing of the intellectual and organic system, may be said to depend in no small degree upon its influence.

"The interest which appears due to this subject will be increased, when we consider that the great natural susceptibility of females makes them peculiarly allied to suffering, and gives them a conformation little favourable to mental tranquillity. So much is this the case in civilized society, that it often happens that few in number are the merely physical causes of evil, in comparison with that inexhaustible moral source which is derived from the disposition to create sorrows by imagination; to perpetuate them by reflection; and to multiply them by apprehension. Now the natural refuge of the sex from such causes of misery, is that organization which renders the emotions fugitive in proportion to their violence. But by education we diminish this great natural spring of ease and consolation, in the degree that we increase the disposition to reflection, and turn the mind upon itself. Yet such is the first aim of intellectual instruction; and the new condition in which we thus place the mind, proves the delicacy and tenderness with which the task should be performed; so that in proportion as we render the system susceptible, we may diminish the sources of irritation and pain."

CHARGES OF A SURGEON.—It is certainly much to the credit of the members of the profession, that law proceedings are seldom adopted by surgeons to recover charges for operations and attendance. The fact is, as Sir Astley Cooper lately observed, the surgeons of this country have no reason to complain of not being handsomely remunerated, if they *properly* perform their duty; the poor go to hospitals, and the middle class cheerfully pay according to their circumstances, while the opulent, being in general much too liberal, make up for the inabilities of others; so that, on the whole, medical men have no just reason to complain of a want of liberality and even gratitude in the public. A case lately occurred within our knowledge, of a surgeon having refused the remuneration offered by a tradesman for *his assistance* in performing a very simple operation, the particulars of which we shall lay before our readers:—Mr. John D'Oyle, jun., a pupil of Dr. Reece, being indisposed, obtained permission to spend a few days with his father at Walham Green. With the view of *amusing himself*, he took an old gun to shoot small birds. A boy in the house, to *amuse himself*, overloaded the gun, in consequence of which, instead of knocking Mr. D'Oyle down, as he imagined, the gun burst, and shattered his left hand so terribly, as to render amputation necessary. Mr. D'Oyle went to the nearest house, and immediately dispatched a messenger for Dr. Reece. The medical men of the place, hearing of the accident, (*viz.* Messrs. Winterbottom and Rouse,) hastened to his assistance. Dr. Reece, on his arrival, found Mr. Rouse in the act of closing the stump, having amputated the fore-arm; on which he expressed his astonishment, observing, that there could not have been any necessity for such haste, the hæmorrhage in such cases being always very trifling. It being the Doctor's intention to bring him to London, he did not take any instruments with him. The doctor, on examining the ends of the bones, discovered a splinter, which he removed, and,

on bringing forward the integuments, he observed that the first incision was not made above the injury. He then closed the stump. A considerable hæmorrhage occurring in the evening, the attendance of Mr. Rouse was requested, who, on observing the quantity of blood which had escaped, was much alarmed. He requested a person present to go immediately to Dr. Reece; and, in case he was not at home, to bring down Mr. Brodie or Mr. Thomas. Dr. Reece, being at home, went immediately to his pupil. The bleeding rendered it necessary to re-open the stump. The blood evidently escaping from the radial artery, in consequence of its not being properly secured, he cut off the ligature, and applied another. By this operation, the patient was subjected to as much pain as he experienced in the amputation. In about two days after the operation, considerable inflammation came on, with extensive tumefaction and fever. Dr. R. removed the roller, ordered saturnine lotion, and antiphlogistic remedies, with an opiate. The injured part of the skin, forming an eschar of the size of half-a-crown, began to suppurate, and, in about ten days more, it sloughed off. The patient returned to town, and attended occasionally at Dr. Reece's house, to have the stump dressed, until it was well. In consequence of the sloughing, it was delayed upwards of two months. On the 10th of January, Dr. Reece, by letter, requested Mr. Rouse to send him his account for the medicines he had sent his pupil, and also for his attendance. Mr. Rouse, in reply, observed, that he considered the father of the youth to have been his employer, and that he looked to him for the payment of his charge.—Mr. Rouse accordingly sent a bill to Mr. D'Oyle, in which he charged ten guineas for the operation, and about eight pounds for medicines, dressings, &c. On Mr. D'Oyle's delivering this bill to Dr. Reece, the Doctor advised him to explain fully the circumstances of the case to Mr. Rouse, viz. that he was the pupil of Dr. Reece, that Dr. Reece was bound to furnish him with medicine, &c. gratuitously, that he had not given a premium with him, and that he could not afford to give more than five guineas, which Dr. Reece considered a proper remuneration; Mr. D'Oyle, however, after acquainting him with the particulars, (of which, indeed, Mr. Rouse could not be ignorant) offered him ten pounds. Mr. Rouse, however, refused to take less than the amount of his bill; and Mr. D'Oyle, being satisfied that, *under all the circumstances of the case*, his offer was very liberal, allowed him to adopt legal measures for the recovery of his full charge, supposing that no jury, on a fair representation of the business, would allow him more than the sum he had tendered. An action was accordingly brought, by Mr. Rouse, against Mr. D'Oyle, (although D'Oyle had not, in fact, employed him, and had delivered his son to the sole care of Dr. Reece) to recover the amount of his demand. Mr. D'Oyle, under the conviction that he had acted liberally towards Mr. Rouse, willingly referred it to a jury. The cause was tried in the first week of the present month, before the Lord Chief Justice, in the Court of King's Bench. Mr. Denman, the Common Sergeant, spoke in his usual verbose style, in support of the action. To prove that Mr. Rouse was competent to

perform so simple an operation, and that his charges were reasonable, a Mr. Shaw was put in the Box. After looking rapidly over the bill, and taking a kind of vacant view of the Court, he observed, with an air of self-sufficiency, peculiar to *his* class of surgeons, "he could not speak of the charges for medicines, for *he* attended to *Surgery* only; that he thought the charge for the operation was very reasonable, and, as to the skill of the operator, he would say that in *all* the Schools of *all* Europe, a more attentive pupil than Mr. Rouse had been, was not to be found." He admitted that he had seen him operate only on dead bodies, and never heard of his performing an operation on a living subject. Mr. Rouse had been a pupil at the *Wind-Mill School*, to which he was demonstrator. He stated, he lived in the Albany, and then in the Albany Court, or Square. He was not asked how many operations on the *living* subject he had performed, nor the reason why the stump required so long a period to be healed as three months, which is generally cured in a fortnight.

Mr. Winterbottom, who represented himself a practitioner "*in the general way*," gave his opinion, that the charges were very reasonable. He assisted Mr. Rouse; but, although he had been thirty years in practice, allowed Mr. Rouse to operate. Denied that he wished Mr. Rouse to apply a ligature to a nerve, admitted that he did disapprove of Mr. Rouse's conduct towards *himself*, and that he knew he had wrote a letter to Mr. D'Oyle, declining to attend any more with Mr. Rouse, and demanding two guineas for his assistance!! Was this *learned* and clever Surgeon educated in Windmill Street School? Two young Surgeons, who had been pupils at this celebrated Windmill School, gave evidence of the charge being moderate; and *one* boldly stated, that Sir Astley Cooper would have charged double. Mr. Scarlet gave this modest gentleman a very proper reprimand, by observing, that he knew Sir Astley Cooper and his charges much better than himself, and desired him to quit the box. The man who made the artificial hand for the youth, was then called on to prove that the stump was a good one!! A good judge, no doubt. A young woman was then put in the box, solely to prove, that the father of the youth applied a disgraceful epithet to his son, on being informed of the accident!!!

Mr. Scarlet, in a manner highly creditable to him as a gentleman, and a man of science and humanity, addressed the Jury on behalf of Mr. D'Oyle. He expressed his indignation at the conduct of the opposite party, in putting a poor young woman in the box, whose evidence had nothing to do with the merits of the case, and the object of which was, to prejudice the Jury against the defendant. The tender of ten pounds by Mr. D'Oyle, which Mr. Denman had denied, was then proved by Mr. Blore, a respectable carpenter of Knightsbridge. Mr. Lewis D'Oyle proved the fact of the bleeding which took place; the alarm Mr. Rouse evinced on seeing the quantity of blood which had escaped, and of his having sent a messenger to request the immediate attendance of Dr. Reece, and in case he was not at home, to bring either Mr. Brodie or Mr. Thomas with him.

Dr. Reece gave a short statement of the case. Mr. Denman in

his *cross-examination*, put a variety of questions which shewed his total ignorance of the most simple operation in surgery, in which a common carpenter would have displayed more knowledge than this Common Sergeant. He urged a direct answer to the question—"Did you not say, after taking up the artery, that no bad consequences would have ensued if it had not been taken up?" The Doctor replied, he had no recollection of having made such an observation; but if he did, it was with the view of defending the character of Mr. Rouse; for the artery (the Radial Artery) was much too large to leave untied. The Doctor's replies to all his questions, not being satisfactory to the learned Common Sergeant, he, "with head awry, and cunning eye," asked him if he had not attended an old woman who pretended to be a prophetess, and had announced her approaching accouchement? He replied, with an expression of contempt, that he had attended her with other professional men, but that he never announced her accouchement. Mr. Scott, an experienced and scientific Surgeon of Westminster, gave his evidence, that he considered the tender made by Mr. D'Oyle, *under all the circumstances of the case*, very handsome. The tender of the ten pounds, having been denied, to compel the defendant to call a witness, in order to entitle the Common Sergeant to a reply, Mr. Denman rose to avail himself of the great advantage they obtained by this chicanery. He contended that the splinter would have been discovered in the subsequent dressings; that the injured part was not removed in order to secure a long stump; that the bleeding, which took place after the stump was bound up, was a *very common occurrence*, even in the practice of the most experienced surgeon. That the cause was *Reece versus Rouse*; and that, had it not been for the interference of Dr. Reece, Mr. D'Oyle would have paid the bill. That the reasonableness of the charge was proved by four *highly respectable* surgeons, and that the stump did great credit to Mr. Rouse, was satisfactorily proved by another highly respectable and scientific man, the maker of the artificial hand. The learned gentleman then launched into a tissue of scurrility and insinuations, in which he was as much "at home" as the actor, Mathews. Instead of the cause being *Reece versus Rouse*, it was now evidently the cause of Croft, *alias* Denman, *versus* Reece.

This said Dr. Reece, this physician to a prophetess, this *Lecturer on Lecturers*, wished to regulate the charges of all surgeons and physicians.—The case of the late Princess of Wales, which the Doctor dared to publish in the 24th and 25th Numbers of the *Gazette of Health*, the result of which was so creditable to Sir Richard Croft, the brother-in-law of the liberal Common Sergeant, and his remarks on that precious family junta, who were playing into each other's hands, to monopolize the practice of London, now operated forcibly on the Common Sergeant's mind. The gall'd jade evidently winced. He now flourished away in a tissue of falsehood and contemptible nonsense, which had no connection whatever with the cause before the court, from the meanest motives,—to prejudice the jury against the defendant.

He that has but impudence,
 To all things has a just pretence;
 And put among his *wants* but shame,
 To all the world may lay his claim.
 The dullest idiots in disguise,
 Appear more knowing than the wise.
Illiterate dunces, undiscerned,
 Pass on the rabble for the learned;
 And cowards, that can *d——n* and *rant*,
 Pass muster for the valiant.

Whether these lines apply to the learned Common Sergeant or not, we leave *some* of his colleagues to determine. It is to us a matter of surprise, that the presiding judge should allow a barrister to put insulting questions to a witness, which have nothing to do with the cause, and which he dare not do out of court.

That the splinter would have been discovered by Mr. Rouse, on a subsequent dressing, is probable, but the consequences might have been most serious; and in such case, might not the operator have been liable to a prosecution for such neglect? The saving of skin, with an eschar nearly of the size of half-a-crown, to cover the ends of the bones, in order to insure a long stump, is, we presume, *law surgery*. The sloughing of it would necessarily prolong the healing of the stump, and the contraction of the skin, which would take place on healing the ulcer, could not fail to be productive of pain and inconvenience to the patient, and these Mr. D'Oyle frequently experiences.

As to the respectability of the surgeons who gave evidence of the moderate charges, two were young men who had lately left the Windmill School, one an elderly man (Mr. Winterbottom) who, we suspect, never performed such an operation, although he was in the general way; and, as to Mr. Shaw, we never heard of him as an operating surgeon. Mr. Charles Bell informs us that he is his brother-in-law, and therefore must be a clever fellow. Mr. Croft, who was of the same Windmill School, was deemed by Mr. Denman the apothecary, (the Common Sergeant's father,) when he boarded with him, a very dull youth; but when he married his daughter, he was then a very bright fellow, and, with the assistance of the family junta, Denman, Home, Baillie, &c., he got into good practice. This extraordinary effect of matrimonial connection is not uncommon in this metropolis. Mr. Shaw is an aspiring man; and on dissecting the urethra of an ass, he fancied he made a discovery; but his brother-in-law soon convinced him that the pretended discovery was known to *all* the Schools of surgery, in *all* Europe. The assertion made by one of the surgeons, that Sir Astley Cooper would have charged double the sum, was a most unwarrantable attack on the character of that gentleman. We must do Sir A. the credit to say, that of all the surgeons in London, no one has acted more liberally towards the members of the profession than himself. We have no hesitation in saying, that had Sir Astley Cooper performed the operation he would not have charged one farthing, when he found the patient to be a pupil of a surgeon, who had been sent for. Had the operation been performed by Sir Astley Cooper, would not the stump have been well in a fortnight?

Mr. Popkin, Mr. D'Oyle's Solicitor, thought it unnecessary to subpoena more than two surgeons to speak as to the sum which had been tendered being a proper remuneration, in consequence of it having been stated that Mr. Brodie and Mr. Keate were to attend on the part of Mr. Rouse. Had these respectable surgeons been examined as to a proper compensation, they would, no doubt, have acknowledged that the sum, as stated by Mr. Scott, was an ample remuneration under all the circumstances of the case, particularly to a young man who had never performed amputation on a living subject.

As to the evidence of the young woman, which was brought forward, no doubt, for an honourable motive, we have no hesitation in stating, that a more affectionate father, a more honest man, or a better Christian, is not to be found in *all* Europe. So much affected was he by his son's accident, that he could not muster sufficient resolution to see him for nearly a fortnight after it happened. As to the opinion Dr. Reece had given of the old woman and prophetess, on which Mr. Common Sergeant so liberally dwelt, we are not aware of his ever having given such an opinion. In his letter respecting her, he noticed the symptoms which justified the *inference* of pregnancy; he stated that the signs of pregnancy are very ambiguous, and that he had not been allowed the examination by which the fact could only be ascertained. Seven other practitioners gave a positive opinion of her pregnancy, of whom Dr. Adams, the Editor of the *Physical Journal*, was one. The name of Dr. Reece has only been mentioned as the medical attendant, although, in fact, her medical attendant was Mr. Wetherall, an experienced accoucheur of Highgate. Dr. Reece was not even in the practice of midwifery: why then, we would ask, should Dr. Reece's name be so frequently coupled with that of the old woman? The answer is clear—because the Doctor has dared to expose the quackery and ignorance of a certain set of practitioners, they attempt to throw a slur on his professional character, by representing the patient to be an impostor. The Doctor's visit was professional, and with her prophecies or religious flights he did not trouble his mind. The case was involved in great mystery, and dissection threw no light on it whatever. It proved the opinion of Dr. Sims to be as erroneous as that delivered by Adams and others. Dr. Sims, in his letter, described the form and situation of the tumour, which, he said, was an enlarged uterus; but on dissection, the uterus was in a natural state. Dr. R. acknowledges, that he was much influenced by the positive assertions of the patient, and the opinions given by her attendants, who were in the practice of midwifery; and had he taken her age into consideration, he might have given that kind of indecisive opinion, which political physicians generally deliver, so as to be able to make it appear, on the termination of the case, they were right. Dr. Denman and Dr. Clarke always advised their pupils never to give a decisive opinion as to pregnancy; and Dr. Denman acknowledged, that he had often been deceived by the symptoms, even where a proper examination had been allowed. He had declared his own wife to be pregnant, and also a Mrs. B., now living in the neighbourhood of Fitzroy-square, who, in consequence,

made preparations for their accouchement ; but time alone convinced them, that the Doctor's opinion was not correct.

Mr. Rouse, after he had commenced law proceedings against Mr. D'Oyle, sent him another bill, with more items, and an additional charge for the operation, amounting to upwards of twenty-four pounds. The jury, however, gave him a verdict for the first bill, eighteen pounds.

Now, so far from Dr. Reece ever having a wish to deprive Mr. Rouse of his rights, as stated by the Common Sergeant, he was desirous to remunerate him ; and after considering the whole of the circumstances, especially those of the patient being his pupil, of the situation of his father, and of his having sent for Dr. Reece, we are satisfied every honourable member of the profession will allow, that the sum of ten pounds was a very handsome remuneration for the trouble Mr. Rouse and his *very able* assistant, Mr. Winterbottom, had on the occasion. Their skill we must, for the present, put out of the question.

By defending this action, or resisting a demand which Mr. D'Oyle considered unjust, he incurred an expense of upwards of one hundred pounds ; an expense which, to a person in so small a way of trade, is really ruinous. By the expense and chicanery of the law, many hundreds of tradesmen are ruined annually in this country. In a criminal court a person can prosecute a man for robbing him for a few shillings ; but to proceed against a man for a debt of a few pounds, he must risk, an expense of upwards of a hundred!! Even the extra costs of Mr. Rouse will amount to more than the sum the jury allowed him. In our next number we shall give copies of Mr. Rouse's two bills, with some remarks on the items, &c. &c.

COPPERAS.--SIRS.--Differences of opinion will occasionally occur even in the best regulated families, and "the cacoethes scribendi" is, we all know, a very troublesome disorder. When your *Plural Singular* correspondent *Galls*, resolved upon entering the lists in defence of *scientific ignorance*, do you not think he might have assumed, with considerable propriety (I only mean as a travelling name) the dignified and expressive appellation of *Logwood*? it would probably have extended his acquaintance with dying articles.

He is at liberty to entertain any opinion he pleases of the motives which induced me to seek your protection. I need not acquaint him that an intimacy with *animal Gall*, is incompatible with, and would prove *abhorrent* to my nature : notwithstanding his *defection*, I have too strong an affinity to old attachments to be offended with *trifles*. He must excuse my reminding him, that, according to the generally received opinion, (which his late letter justifies) he is considered to be but an excrescence, a nest or receptacle, where a *peculiar species* of insect deposits its eggs, and which, no doubt, occasionally become added, as a *Parasitical Fly* is sometimes seen to occupy the nest, perhaps with the consent, or by the invitation of the *original inhabitant*.

With reference to "the subject in question," which gave rise to

my former letter; candour induces me to state my firm belief, that it owes the principal part of the notoriety it has obtained to the ill-judged attempts made by *the party's* friends, to stifle public opinion with silly and *offensive doses of nauseating flattery*. Their outline was *incorrect, their colouring tinged and false, their varnish* too lavishly applied. In common charity to the young man's feelings, (though he paid no attention to mine on the trial) I will not add another word, lest it should afford his friends an opportunity to do him more extensive injury; he may, with great justice exclaim, "Pol! me occidistis amici." It shall not be *my fault*, if the intimacy which has so long existed between Galls and myself does not continue, and with renewed harmony of *colouring*: he will do me the justice to acknowledge, in spite of his flourishes about his senior partner, that he would cut a very sorry figure *in letters* without my assistance; he has given me credit for wit, which, I suppose, I must *in part* possess, since *he* has discovered it. I shall now remain truly grateful to him, and to you, my dear Mr. Editor, for your very great indulgence and impartial conduct. Your ever obliged,

Chelmsford, 12th June, 1822.

COPPERAS.

FIRE, &c.—SIRS.—From the beneficial nature of your publication, and the liberality with which it is conducted, I am again induced to request you will give room for the insertion of a cheap, easy, and simple instrument, for the relief of persons placed in the most dangerous and alarming situations that can befall mortals, namely, that of Fire.

The instrument to which I allude, is a rope, in value about one shilling; one end of which should be fastened to the upper window of a house, and there preserved, neatly rolled up, to be ready in case of fire, the space occupied will not be greater than that of a quarter of a hundred of pens. Several knots should be tied in the rope, with a noose at the bottom, and the rope should be long enough to reach to the ground. By means of this simple contrivance, children, infirm persons, or packages, may be safely conveyed down from any of the ~~lower~~ windows, as well as from the upper story, by being fastened in the noose, or persons may slide down the rope without danger, the knots serving to regulate the rapidity of their descent. It is really surprising, that in a large and populous town, like London, where fires are so frequent, so destructive, and so fatal, and where the houses are so lofty, that some such simple apparatus should not be attached to every dwelling. If, however, the present contrivance should be attended to, and be the means of saving the life of one individual, I shall deem myself happier than the greatest hero of either ancient or modern times, who has waded through the blood of thousands, to the crown of a mighty empire.

In my next, I will point out some simple and expeditious methods of extricating horses from fire, and will also make some observations, which may assist materially in extinguishing fires in general, more particularly before they have reached to an alarming height.

CHEMICUS.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 80.

To AUGUST 1, 1822.

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OF THE LATE DRS. GIRDLESTONE, REID, AND JUKES.

SINCE the publication of our last number, we have received information of the death of Dr. Girdlestone of Yarmouth, Dr. Reid of London, and Dr. Jukes of Bombay.

Dr. Girdlestone.—The death of this gentleman was sudden. During a conversation with a patient in the market-place of Yarmouth, he experienced an attack of apoplexy, which terminated his existence in a few minutes. Since he commenced the practice of physician in Yarmouth, a period of upwards of thirty years, he has maintained a character conspicuous for great professional talent, indefatigable attention to his patients, the poor as well as the rich, general philanthropy, and urbanity of manners.

Having been educated in the schools of surgery and pharmacy, and attentively studied the different branches of medicine under the first teachers in London, he was one of those few physicians of this country who are able to bring to the assistance of the afflicted the whole power of modern medicine, and in complex cases of disease he, therefore, uniformly displayed the most comprehensive knowledge of the different branches of the healing art. He was a great admirer of the simplicity of the doctrines of Mr. Abernethy on the chylopoietic functions, but was not a slavish follower of the opinions of any teacher or writer; for long experience and close observation had taught him to attend more to the constitution of a patient, and his habits of living, than to the *name* of a disease. That he was well acquainted with the classics and general literature, the high esteem in which his various works are justly held by those who are competent to judge of their merits, and the handsome manner in which they have been noticed in the most respectable reviews, afford the most incontestable evidence. If the doctor was admired as an able and conscientious physician, and a general scholar of refined taste, he was no less so as the practical Christian. The gratifying results of his practice were not the number of fees, but the beneficial effects of his prescriptions. He did not estimate his time at the rate of five guineas an hour, as many of the sordid physicians of this metropolis do. The time he devoted to the poor, whom he attended gratuitously, he considered as profitably spent as that he devoted to the rich. The latter enabled him to live comfortably in this life, and the reward of the former he would enjoy in a better world; for, as the great Boerhaave frequently observed to his pupils, when speaking of the poor, God is their paymaster. The practice of Dr. Girdlestone, although his time was as much employed in attendance on the sick as that of the physicians who boast of making twenty-five thousand a year in this metropolis, did not produce annually an income of more than twelve

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hundred pounds, which we suspect barely supported his necessary establishment and his charities.

He was a great friend to periodical works on medicine, and alive to all the improvements and discoveries which they promulgated. He also purchased all the new publications on medicine, which he arranged in his library according to their intrinsic value; and in the quack and puffing department were placed works on diabetes, watery head, disordered respiration, gout and rheumatism, the diseases of the abdominal viscera, disorders of digestion, &c. &c. from a set of contemptible physicians, who endeavour to persuade the public that they possess a superior knowledge of medicine; but whose publications, the doctor very properly considered in the same light as the advertisements of Dr. Solomon, and other nostrum venders. The former he termed advertisements for the *sovereign* fee; and the other for the sale of a *sovereign* remedy; the result of each of which was equally beneficial to the public.

By the death of Dr. Girdlestone the world has lost a man of science; the medical profession a brilliant ornament; and the poor, and, indeed, the rich, of Yarmouth and its vicinity, a most valuable friend. In consequence of the death of this physician, and of Dr. Rigby of Norwich, medicine, we are fearful, is reduced to a very low ebb in that county. Dr. Wright, Dr. Yellowly, and Dr. Evans of Norwich, have lately evinced much activity; but whether in pursuit of the loaves and fishes, or in the promotion of the science of medicine, time only can determine. A correspondent informs us, that Dr. Evans, who lately made a grand dash at practice in Worcester, for a short time looked towards Yarmouth; but, it seems, he thought the field was not sufficiently extensive for a man of his extraordinary talents and literary acquirements.

Doctor Reid.—This gentleman, although he held the appointment of Physician to the Finsbury Dispensary for many years, and had been employed by Sir Richard Phillips to write Medical Reports for the Monthly Magazine, was little known in the metropolis as a practitioner. He studied medicine under the celebrated Dr. John Brown, and was an enthusiastic admirer of his doctrines, which he strictly followed in practice at the Dispensary, for about twenty years. Soon after he resigned this appointment he was afflicted with an affection of the bowels and head, which he treated according to the Brunonian system. Finding the stimulating treatment to aggravate rather than quiet the symptoms, he, for the first time, examined the opinions of Brown, and compared his system with that of Cullen, and after going carefully over his Book of Cases, which had occurred in his Dispensary practice, he became a great admirer of the theories of Dr. Cullen, and in his next "Medical Report," in the Monthly Magazine, he declared the doctrines of Dr. John Brown to be erroneous, and that long experience had satisfied him that more lives had been destroyed in this country by his theory than by the sword, or any epidemic. The Brunonian system was seductive from its novelty and simplicity, and so attached have many of his pupils remained to it, even during many years of extensive practice, that they have even brought forward the unfortunate results in its favour. We lately heard a disciple of Brown assert, when speaking of a case of fever, which had terminated fatally under the Brunonian treatment, that

had brandy been more freely administered, she would probably have recovered; whereas, it was evident to other practitioners, that the result would have been very different, had an opposite mode of treatment been employed. The theory of Brown was first broached by the late Dr. Darwin of Derby, and to it he fell a victim, as well as Dr. Brown himself, and it is to be feared that many thousands of their patients were sacrificed to it.

The late Dr. Lubbock, of Norwich, was so blindly devoted to the Brunonian doctrines, that a few days previous to his death he observed, with an air of exultation, that he had never had occasion to order a patient to be bled during his long practice in Norfolk!! Abstraction of blood is surely of the first importance in cases of apoplexy and inflammation of the brain, lungs, and other internal organs, and by its early adoption, many thousand lives have doubtless been saved. Had then the patients, afflicted with either of these diseases, a fair chance of recovery under the care of an infatuated follower of Brown? "But conscience," observes Dr. Reid, in his *Essay on Remedies*, "feels little concern in cases of medicinal murder."!!!

The experience Dr. Reid had *on himself*, soon convinced him of the errors of his teacher, and his public acknowledgment of it, after following it so many years, was highly creditable to him as a physician and a Christian. Dr. Reid's style of writing was peculiarly his own. His language was particularly flowery and verbose, and well calculated to please those members of the profession who study words more than matter. About twelve years ago he published a *Treatise on Pulmonary Consumption*, which was soon distributed among the retailers of butter and cheese. He afterwards published "*Essays on Hypochondriasis and other Nervous Affections*," which passed through two editions. This work, although it affords no information of any practical utility to the physician, is replete with interesting anecdotes. During the three last years of his life he suffered much from an affection of the rectum, which he attributed to the adoption of the Brunonian system of diet. The disease advancing to ulceration, terminated his existence. He was a decided enemy to regular and irregular quackery, and in his attendance on the sick, evinced ability, humanity and liberality. He was a great admirer of Christianity, and as he met his fate with the fortitude of a stoic, or rather as a practical Christian, we cannot, perhaps, conclude this article more properly than with the following extract from his *Essay on the dread of Death*, which nervous or hypochondriacal subjects generally entertain.

"Instruments have been invented by which the most remote objects of vision may be drawn so near to the eye, as to seem almost in contact with it. Something analogous to this power exists in the mental mechanism of many an hypochondriac, by means of which he approximates to himself events at the greatest distance either in prospect or in retrospect, either before or behind him in the road of life. This power contracts the interval of time, as a telescope does that of space. The most remote calamity which he anticipates, he feels, as if it were actually crushing him with its weight. From being in the habit of contemplating, with a morbid intensity, the close of his earthly career, he forestalls, almost every day of his life, the agonies of dissolution. The spectre of

human mortality is continually presenting itself before him in the full dimension of its horrors; so that it is no wonder if actual death be often occasioned by the appalling apparition. It is similar with regard to the past; although the substance of some great calamity has long gone by, its lingering shadow still continues to darken his path. Years make no impression upon the immutability of his feelings. The ideas of recollection are, in general, less lively than those which are produced by an immediate operation upon the senses. But with a certain class of hypochondriacs it is quite otherwise. The pictures drawn upon the fancy exhibit a more distinct and vivid colouring than belongs to the realities of life.

"Hypochondriasis is the more dreadful as a disease, from its being one of the tardiest ministers of death. It is a monster which delights rather in tormenting than in devouring its prey. Under the influence of this malady, the materials of the human fabric for the most part moulder away almost as imperceptibly as under the leisurely operation of time. We do not see the actual crumbling of the structure; although, after a certain interval, it may be observed to have lost a considerable portion of its bulk and solidity. The incrustation of melancholy, which gradually grows and thickens over the surface of the mind, seems in some measure to protect that part, and indirectly the whole of our frame, from the ravages of decay. The process of disease is often more to be dreaded than its mortal termination. In many cases, it is not the tomb, so much as the shadowy and thorny avenue which leads to it, that is the proper subject of horror and of awe. Natural are, for the most part, more cruel than what are called violent deaths. So far as suffering is concerned, who would not rather die of a dagger, than of a dropsy; or fall at once in the field of battle, with an instantaneously mortal wound, than be doomed to bear for years the lingering agonies of cancer, or gradually to yield to the slow underminings of consumption?

Let him who crawls, enamour'd of decay,

Cling to his couch, and sicken years away,

Heave his thick breath, and shake his palsied head;

Our's the fresh turf, and not the feverish bed. BYRON.

"Mac Ivor, the proper hero of *Waverley*, in contemplating his approaching execution with philosophical calmness, remarks, 'Nature has her tortures as well as art; and how happy should we think the man who escapes from the throes of a mortal and painful disorder in the space of a short half-hour! and this matter, spin it how they will, cannot last so long.'" The agonies with which dissolution is so generally accompanied, constitute one of the most melancholy mysteries in the providence of God. We ought to consider, however, as in some measure an explanation of it, that the bodily pain of the dying takes off from the edge of his mental apprehension, and that it is a mean, although a severe one, by which we are reconciled to the relinquishment of life, and our attention diverted from the horrors of that dark gulf into which we are about to plunge.

"Against the inordinate fear of death, one of the most effectual preservatives is regular and active occupation. In this way, poverty often precludes the access of evils greater than itself. The fear of death is felt most, where there is no intervening evil to obstruct the view of that

ultimate calamity. He whose thoughts are absorbed in the means of living, can think little of the end of life.

"The inordinate fear of death, so far as the disease is purely mental, may be in a great measure counteracted by a juster estimate of the value of life, 'a state in which much is to be endured, and little, comparatively, to be enjoyed.' This correct judgment, when associated with 'the gay conscience' of a life that has been spent, upon the whole, honorably and usefully so far as it has advanced, will enable a man, at any stage of its progress, to look forward as well as backward, with no exulting or triumphant, but with a humble and quiet satisfaction.

"The Christian is still more highly privileged. His eye, happily invigorated by faith, is able to penetrate the thick mist which hangs over the tomb, and which, from our unassisted sight, intercepts any further prospect. The light of divine revelation is, after all, the *only* light which can effectually disperse the gloom of a sick chamber, and irradiate even the countenance of death.

"It is not the fear of death only, which is apt to overshadow the mind of the hypochondriac; he is often the slave of fear, which has no specific object. He trembles under the weight of indefinite apprehension. The terrors of the most gloomy superstition are scarcely more intolerable, than his state of vague inexplicable timidity. He has no resolution, no enterprise. He is imprudently cautious. The foresight of possible evil, shuts him out from the chance of probable advantage. In reference to a highly estimable person of a hypochondriacal cast, it was once remarked by an ingenious young lady, that 'if he had built a ship, he would not have the courage to launch it.' An excess of circumspection may be worse even than rashness. A man has been often immortalized by an act of lucky indiscretion. A physician of nervous pusillanimity, rather than incur the risk of being thought to kill one of his patients, would *let* many of them die. He would not do any thing that would seem directly to destroy life; but he would often refrain from doing that which was absolutely necessary to its preservation,—as if murders from omission left no stain upon the character, and inflicted no wound upon the conscience."

Dr. Jukes.—This eminent physician died on the 10th of November, 1821, at Ispahan, in Persia, of a bilious fever. He had been a surgeon on the Bombay establishment, and at the time of his death held the appointment of Political Agent at Keshm, and had been employed on a special mission to the Court of Persia. He was born at Gound, in the county of Salop, on the 17th of December, 1774. In 1804 he accompanied Mr. Ministy to Jehran, and the following year attended the Persian Ambassador, Mahomed Nubee Kan, to Calcutta, and more recently the embassies of Sir Harford Jones, and Sir John Malcolm, to the Court of Persia.

"In 1811 he returned to his native country, where, during his stay, he cultivated an acquaintance with some of the most distinguished philosophers of the age, and sought instruction in the schools of science with the ardour and emulation of a youthful student.

"At the latter end of December, 1814, he again departed for Bombay, where he resumed his professional duties, and had obtained the rank of superintending surgeon, when he was deputed, in 1819, on a mission to

the Iman of Muscat, preparatory to the expedition against the Joasmees pirates; and the satisfactory manner in which he fulfilled that trust, probably led to the important employment of envoy from the government of Bombay to the court of Persia.

"The event which it has been our painful duty to notice, has deprived Dr. Jukes of a part of that reputation which he must have acquired had he accomplished all the objects of his mission. The arrangements, however, which he effected with the Government of Shirauz (in which city he was a great part of the time that the cholera morbus raged therein with such terrific violence) terminated successfully; and had not his zeal prompted him to pursue his journey towards the capital, for the confirmation of his negotiations, through difficulties and fatigues which his constitution was unequal to sustain, there can be little doubt that he would have brought them to a conclusion most honourable to himself and advantageous to the public interest.

"The professional qualifications possessed by Dr. Jukes were of the highest order. Few men took to our Eastern dominions a more complete knowledge of the science in all its branches, and none have been more indefatigable in submitting that knowledge to the test of experience, or more assiduous in marking the improvements that have from time to time been effected by the exertions of others. But his manner whilst in attendance on the sick was quite characteristic, and could scarcely be excelled. He was scrupulously minute in his inquiries, unsparing of his personal exertions, bold and decisive in his practice; and, with these qualities, combined so much kindness and gentleness, and such tender solicitude to relieve the sufferings of his patients, and dispel all unnecessary alarm, that he at once secured the confidence and affection of all who experienced or witnessed his admirable arrangement. Nor was the exercise of his profession limited to those whom public duty had placed under his charge—it had in fact no limits but those which time and his own state of health imperiously prescribed. Prompted partly by benevolence, and partly by a desire to improve his knowledge by experience, he anxiously sought opportunities of exercising his talents, regardless of the difficulties that are inseparable from medical practice among a prejudiced and slothful people.

"In scientific information he was distinguished even amongst the members of a profession by which it is so generally cultivated. The sciences of chemistry, mineralogy, geology, and botany, all fell within the range of his acquirements; and if he did not attain eminence in all, he was so patient in his researches, so methodical in his habits, and so unreserved and faithful in his communications, that he was an invaluable correspondent of those philosophers who have had more leisure and fewer objects of research, and by whom his death cannot fail to be considered as a public misfortune.

"He possessed also a refined taste in poetry, music, and the fine arts; and had applied himself with some success to each—in landscape drawing more particularly he displayed a considerable genius, and frequently devoted a part of his leisure hours to the exercise of that accomplishment.

"As a member of society, he was characterized by a fine sense of honour, and a manly spirit of independence; by a heart full of charity,

benevolence, and piety ; by great sweetness and equanimity of temper—by cheerfulness and gentleness of manners—and by an ardent thirst after knowledge, joined to the freest disposition to impart it. It is perhaps superfluous to add, that he was a delightful companion, and that in the more endearing relations of son, of husband, of father, and of friend, he possessed those excellencies which almost necessarily result from a combination of virtuous and agreeable qualities.”

MANAGEMENT OF INFANTS.—Mr. Henry Thompson, a scientific and experienced surgeon, of Enfield, in Middlesex, has lately published a very useful work on this important subject, under the title of the “Nursery Guide ; or Remarks on the conduct of a Nursery : containing such information as is likely to prove useful to parents.”

One great object of this tract is to impress on the mind of the mother the absolute necessity of having recourse to the advice of a *skilful* practitioner on the first appearance of indisposition in her infant. All the diseases of infants are of an acute nature, and to combat them successfully, *proper* means should be speedily employed. By employing the simple remedies of nurses, or the more pernicious ones, the nostrums of quacks, many lives are no doubt lost which might have been saved, had proper remedies been administered on the onset of the malady. By recommending an application for professional assistance, Mr. Thompson wishes his readers not to suppose that he is influenced by any mercenary motive, but that his real wish is to prevent the accumulation of diseases and of expense, which inevitably follow the neglect of a malady on its first attack. “Too often, indeed,” observes Mr. Thompson, “is it the case that we are sent for but as a *dernier resort*, when the long catalogue of domestic and homespun remedies have been uselessly employed, or have *ceased to do harm*,—when our means, which might (if sought earlier) have been of service, prove now but additional torments ; and we are forced reluctantly to behold the parting gasp of the miserable sufferer ; to be silent and mournful spectators of an untimely end ; to lament, with a tear of pity, the frailty of human nature ; and, commending that patience under suffering, so hard to be attained, thus quit the distressing scene.”

We have selected the following articles, as fair specimens of Mr. Thompson’s work.

“ *Wet-Nurse.*

“ But, should misfortune be, alas ! her lot,—
Should death have robb’d her of her infant’s smiles,—
Then may’st thou safely give to her thine own,
To rear and cherish with a mother’s care.
But first especial caution take to learn
The health and manners of the nurse you hire ;
Since, from neglect of this well-meant advice,
Such ills arise as render medicine’s aid
Through life compulsory. Rather choose
One whose look bespeaks an even temper,*

“ * Good temper, for many reasons, should be a main point in a wet-nurse ; since the effects which passion has upon the health (of women suckling especially), will produce mischief to the infant, by affecting its bowels through the medium of the milk.”

And whose cheek, blushing with Nature's bloom,
 Gives her fair claim to seek thy service.
 When once she's thine, her real good promote :
 Let her have treatment in thy family
 Befitting of her station;* think her thou
 Thy second self, in matters which relate
 To nutriment ; heed not her clothing less,†
 Than in such situation thou would'st have
 That others heeded thine ; decent but warm,
 Conveying heat nutritious to her veins,
 That thus she may impart it to thy child."

" *Flatulency.*

" The frequent pains which infants feel from wind,
 Are by those evils heretofore remark'd,
 Of faulty diet caused ; and not, as oft
 The misled nurse describes, from acid, bile,
 Or such like nonsense, in her brain alone.
 Children are seldom born with a disease ;
 But as we envied thus their happy lot,
 We early seek to make them share, forsooth,
 By every art, those we ourselves possess :
 And not unfrequent do the writhing forms
 Of anguish'd limbs, in attitudes of pain,
 Spring from our senseless selves ; whilst eructations
 And countenance descriptive of distress,
 In pity make us feel those ills our own,
 When we *can feel* for any thing but self."‡

" * I particularly wish to be understood as reprobating the *drudgery* which many persons compel their wet-nurses to perform. The situation of a wet-nurse should be regulated with much care ; neither feeding her scantily nor grossly ; neither over-working her, nor permitting her to be wholly idle. If she attends to all the wants of the infant, takes it out at proper times, and has always her little charge in view, she does all that ought to be required of her : scouring rooms, and similar labour, does not come within her province ; and none but the unfeeling or necessitous would require them to perform such work."

" † The nurse's clothing ought to be particularly attended to, since they are, from being generally young persons, both giddy and careless ; either desirous of aping the fashions of their mistresses, (to speak plainly,) by leaving off a petticoat occasionally, or too indolent to put on an additional one when the season requires it. They also should be attended to in another way, viz. to see that they air their own clothes ; it being a common custom to omit this in their hurry, and thus injure both themselves and the child. It is besides tolerably well known, that, when these flighty nurses have *wasted* one half of the day, they are generally in a bustle the other ; and for this reason their duty should be assigned them for each part of the day, so as to avoid any one portion of it being too laborious, by intruding on the other."

" ‡ Magnesia is a very general and a very good remedy ; but from its

"Thrush.

"With speck'd appearance bland, of tiny growth,
 Within the mouth is seen the apthous crop;
 Upon the tongue, or round the ruby gums,
 Sprinkled like pearls upon the crimson dye,
 These little spots show their unwelcome forms,
 Creating fears and dreads; which, *ta'en in time*,
 Are soon allay'd, if proper means assist.*"

apparent simplicity, it is very often made accessory to the production or continuance of diseases. It is usual for persons to say, on many occasions, 'Give a little magnesia; it is an innocent thing!' and so it is when absolutely required, but not otherwise. I will therefore explain so much of its action *chemically* as will, I hope, convince the reader of the folly of giving magnesia on all occasions. Magnesia acts, when taken into the stomach, chiefly by combining with any *acid* it may find there, and forms a *neutral salt*, which in itself is *purgative*. Thus then is it, that the magnesia is *sometimes* aperient; but, when none is met with, it *does not so act at all*: it will therefore be seen that, when only a healthy share of acid exists, it is worse than useless. It is the duty of the stomach to furnish at all times so much of this animal acid, technically termed GASTRIC JUICE, as will dissolve or decompose (to use a chemical phrase) what is fit for the purposes of life. When then, as in some diseases, it is secreted in *too large* a quantity, occasional doses of magnesia will be useful; but, if this medicine be given improperly, when it is not superabundant, it must follow that a quantity of the juice is applied to another purpose than what it was designed for; and thus, when food is taken into the stomach, from not meeting with its solvent, it remains an undigested mass, creating all the symptoms of that painful disease, Dyspepsia, or indigestion. The wonder, therefore, is not *that so many children die* within the first year, but *that so many live*; since we are so perpetually cramming them with one kind of poison to make them ill, and with perhaps a much worse to try to make them well. To pass from physic to food, (a natural gradation) it may be observed, that every mother or nurse who gives bread, or any thing whatever but the breast, when it can be done (as it mostly can) with safety to both parties, are, in the same proportion as they recede from the dictates of nature, approaching the crime of murder. I have already expressed this opinion before; but I voluntarily am guilty of repetition, that I may make some impression, if possible, on those who, I hope, only err from not knowing better: and that they *do* err, will, I think, be made to appear from what I have above advanced; for, if the juice of the stomach, at a certain age, is only fitted by the Almighty to form the human milk into nutriment, how is it possible that bread, meat, &c. can be dissolved or decomposed by it?"

That magnesia is often injurious by keeping up irritation in the bowels, or by over-purging an infant, we admit; but that it acts injuriously by neutralizing the gastric juice, we do not agree with the author, for we are satisfied that the gastric juice is not an acid.

"* Although this is one of the little maladies that nurses take upon

" Dalby's Carminative.

" Now, ere I quit my subject, let me tell,
 (Nor be neglectful of the caution given),
 Of one vast source of infantile destruction;
 A wily foe, lurking beneath a veil
 Of pleasing, friendly mien; luring, it gains,
 By its too-fatal charms, successive shoals
 Of hapless victims to its crowded shades.
 This is the fate which oft attends upon
 The foolish whims of those, glad to remove,
 By any means, however infamous,
 The little troubles that an infant gives.
 Hard is the fate of these poor innocents:
 First, forced to pine on food unfit their age;
 Next, to endure disease such feeding brings;
 And, last of all, to suffer and to die
 By the dread torments of a poison'd drug.
 How oft from its effects carminative,
 The little sufferer feels its pains remov'd;
 How oft deceitfully are friends deceiv'd
 By being witnesses to its relief,
 Thus too securely placing confidence,
 When death secretes him in the potent charm.*
 If ye but knew the deleterious drug
 That forms the basis of this vile deception,
 Far worse, alas! than the disease it aims,
 Or falsely is withheld, to remedy:
 If ye but felt, or could anticipate,
 The days, nay years, of sorrow it creates
 To babes so dear to thee, thou'dst dash forthwith
 The poison from thy hand. Its sad effects
 Too oft I've seen; too oft had cause to curse
 Th' insidious traitor to the human race.
 I speak not thus to harm whose good it is
 To vend this nostrum, nor because it such

themselves to remove, it would be advisable to have medical assistance, as it is not at all times a passive disease."

" * The number of children that die from the improper administration of this medicine, is incalculable; for, as it in the first place allays pain, it is given by stupid old women and lazy nursery-maids on every occasion when they wish to be rid of their duty. Thus is the infant kept in a constant stupor; and I have known very many cases of this kind taken for, and treated as, *water on the brain*. Thus, then, do I say it is a mischievous medicine, and one which ought never to be admitted into the nursery; nor should the nurse, at any time, be apprized of opium being a component part of an infant's medicine, lest she misuses the knowledge. Syrup of poppies, improperly prepared, has often produced the effect of watery head, by having opium in it."

Is known to be; nor yet to raise upon
Its downfal med'cine's cause: No! for if known
Its dose proportion, it might useful prove
In hands more skilful than the nurses here.*"

THE MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—This Society, composed of fellows, licentiate and non-licentiate physicians, surgeons, surgeon-apothecaries, and esquires, has resolved in future to make a book half-yearly, of "*such papers as shall have been ordered by the council*" (of eleven) for publication, viz. on the first of July, and the first of February.

From the papers, which have been read and discussed in the Society since the completion of their eleventh volume, the council of eleven (physicians, surgeons, and esquires) have selected twenty, which in their opinion possess sufficient novelty and merit to justify their publication. We shall notice them in their numerical order.

Article 1st. On April 3d, 1821, Dr. Farre presented a paper from Dr. Marshall Hall, M. D., F. R. S. (author of a *Treatise on a new Class of Diseases*, termed *Mimoses*, &c. &c.) embracing "Four cases of children who had attempted, by mistake, to drink boiling water from the spout of a tea-kettle." The accidents proved fatal to three; and, on dissection, it appeared to the Doctor, that the boiling water had not been conveyed into the stomach, or entered the gullet, the glottis and larynx being only injured, producing symptoms of croup. The Doctor gives his opinion, that "the course of the boiling water was arrested by a spasmodic action of the muscles of the pharynx, and that in passing to the posterior part of the mouth it scalded the epiglottis and glottis, which became swollen, so as to shut up the orifice into the larynx, and thereby produce suffocation." Mr. Stanley, a scientific surgeon, of Bartholomew's Hospital, being present when the Doctor's paper was read, related two fatal cases of the same accident; in one of which the boiling water did enter the stomach, and produced considerable mischief in it, and also in the gullet. In the other there was only a slight redness, and tumefaction of the mucous membrane of the larynx, above the opening of the glottis. The windpipe, the gullet, and stomach, were not affected; but effusion was discovered between the membranes of the brain and in the ventricles; and the patient, on being admitted into St. Bartholomew's Hospital, exhibiting symptoms of an affection of the brain, it is probable the boiling water had little or nothing to do with his death. In the first case, Dr. Hall ordered blood to be abstracted from the jugular vein, and leeches to be applied to the front of the throat. The patient (a girl about three years old) screamed so violently on seeing the leeches, that

"* This medicine is *made* by almost every retailing chemist and druggist in town, and is very heedlessly indeed attended to. I have seen careless apprentices, with large quantities of the bottles on a counter, putting in at random laudanum and other materials of which it is composed. As this is a medicine that *very seldom ought to be given to infants*, it will readily suggest itself, that too much caution cannot be bestowed in its preparation, nor too small a quantity intrusted to unskilful hands."

"they could not be *made* to apply." From this moment, however, the respiration became comparatively easy, and the child recovered in the course of a week. The parents of the child told the doctor, they supposed the violence of the screaming ruptured the vesicles which impeded breathing, and thereby saved her life. The subject of the second case (a boy, aged two years) died from suffocation, seventeen hours after taking the boiling water. He had no difficulty in swallowing, and the stomach was not disturbed—blood was abstracted from the arm, and oil and syrup administered—no topical means were employed. The third case (a girl, aged two years and a half) terminated fatally in ten hours. In the fourth case (a girl of the same age as the preceding), to prevent impending suffocation, an opening was made into the windpipe, twelve hours after the accident. The relief was immediate, the child breathing freely through the artificial aperture. The following day, "the child swallowed imperfectly, a little passing at each attempt into the windpipe, and was returned through the artificial opening by coughing." If the glottis was closed by tumefaction, or vesicles, how was it possible for any thing introduced into the mouth to get into the windpipe? She died about thirty-four hours after the operation, which the Doctor attributed, not to the operation, but to the exhausting influence of the *original* disease!!

Now, as the parents of the subject of the first case had so frankly stated to the Doctor their opinion as to the happy effects of screaming, why did he not avail himself of the hint, and scarify the small vesicles which had formed about the glottis and epiglottis? In his remarks on the fatal cases, he states, "If the suffocation were imminent, I should not hesitate to propose the operation of laryngotomy, or tracheotomy." He expresses his regret, that he did not propose the "scarification of the epiglottis and glottis, so as to evacuate the blisters." He concludes with the following observation,—*"I have also conjectured that it might be possible to enlarge the orifice into the larynx, either by removing a portion of its edges, by means of a cutting instrument of a proper form, or by introducing a tube; the latter expedient appears to be particularly adapted to a case which time would cure, and which would not probably be materially aggravated by a cause of irritation."* The Council should have rendered this part of the Doctor's paper a little more intelligible. Surely the Doctor cannot suppose it practicable to enlarge the *rima glottidis*, by cutting away its edges? We advise the Doctor, in case he should be consulted on such an accident again, to call to his assistance an experienced surgeon, and instead of confusing him with absurd suppositions or suggestions, to leave the *entire* management of it to him.

Article 2d. Is a case of aneurism, in which a ligature was placed upon the subclavian artery, by Mr. Mayo, surgeon to the County Hospital, in Winchester. Mr. Mayo confesses, that "the artery was more deeply seated, and more difficultly exposed, than he expected." There appears to have been some confusion in applying the ligature, but the operation was finished in twenty minutes. "The case was very formidable, and far advanced. The patient died on the eleventh day after the operation. Had the unfortunate patient submitted to the operation when Mr. Mayo urged it, on first seeing him, the result would have been very different."

The German surgeons have an instrument for applying a ligature to

the subclavian artery, with which it appears Mr. Mayo is unacquainted.

Article 3d. Is a case of tracheotomy, which was successfully performed, for the removal of a pebble from the windpipe, by Dr. Hunt, an eminent physician and surgeon, of Dartmouth. The patient, a boy four years old, fell down with pebbles in his mouth, one of which became fixed in the rima glottidis. The boy exhibiting signs of being nearly suffocated, a young lady present introduced her finger into the mouth, but instead of taking out the pebble, pushed it into the windpipe. It there produced very little irritation.—A consultation of the wise surgeons of Dartmouth was held, and all agreed on the necessity of making an opening into the windpipe, for the removal of the pebble. The operation was performed in the usual manner by Dr. Hunt, and terminated favourably. Mr. Earle, in a note on this case, observes, that it appears to him to possess considerable interest, by illustrating the different degrees of sensibility between the larynx and the windpipe. The great difference in the degrees of sensibility of these parts has been noticed by all anatomists, and is well known to all the surgeons of this country.

Article 4th. Is intitled "an account of a singular variety of urine, which turned black soon after being discharged," by Drs. Marcet and Prout. Dr. Marcet has for many years paid much attention to the analysis of morbid urine and urinary calculi. Dr. Prout thinks he has discovered a new acid in *black* urine, which he proposes to term *melanic acid*. This discovery, however, he allows to require confirmation. The article does not contain a single remark worthy of notice, and why the Council should deem it worthy a place in the Transactions of the Society, is a matter of surprise to us.

Article 5th. Is a case of extraction of a living foetus, from a woman who was killed by violence, in the ninth month of pregnancy, communicated by Mr. Green, surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital. The poor woman was run over by a heavy laden stage coach: she was immediately taken to St. Thomas's Hospital, where she died, about half an hour after the accident.

Mr. Green being present, sent to Dr. Blandell, to consult with him respecting the propriety of performing the Cesarean operation, with the view of saving the child. Dr. Blandell soon arrived, and agreeing with Mr. Green that the child might be saved by it, the operation was performed, after she had been dead *thirteen minutes*. The child exhibited no signs of life. After employing the usual resuscitative means *fifteen minutes*, they had the satisfaction of seeing the child gasp, and in about two minutes more the efforts of respiration were audible at any part of the room. Having so far succeeded in bringing the vital powers into action by inflating the lungs, they determined to try the effect of other stimulants; and with this view a small quantity of brandy was administered, which produced an injurious effect, the breathing becoming weaker and less regular. The inflation was continued, and in five minutes there were symptoms of an increase of the vital powers. With the view of "aiding more effectually the maintenance of the temperature, and the action of the heart and arteries," they immersed the body in warm water. The effect was not such as they had anticipated, for the pulse diminished in force and frequency, and the respiration again became irregular. The child was then immersed in cold water, to excite a re-

action of the vascular system ; but this experiment produced no good effect :—" after a time the breathing and circulation became natural, and seemed completely established, and the infant opened its eyes." Thirty-four hours after its extraction it died, apparently in consequence of inflammation of the ramifications of the windpipe.

In this case we discover nothing to commend, but very much to condemn. In the first place, that a man holding the appointment of surgeon to a large hospital should hesitate one moment on the propriety of performing the Cesarean operation on a *dead* person is to us most extraordinary.—To save the life of the child he must be aware the operation should be as speedily performed after the death of the woman as possible.—The delay of thirteen minutes, or even of three, was of great consequence in such a case. Had it been done immediately on the death of the woman, no resuscitative means would have been necessary, and surely on the dead subject Mr. Green could require no surgical assistance. Besides, why not deliver *per vaginam* ? The sending for Dr. Blundell was a very *green*, if not a reprehensible act. The exhibition of brandy to stimulate the stomach, when respiration was kept up by artificial means, was also very *green* practice. The child could not possess the power of deglutition, and if it could be conveyed into the stomach, would *cold* brandy in such a state of system prove a stimulus ? The result of this experiment they should have anticipated. Indeed, in our opinion, the attempt was more likely to suffocate the child than to rouse the vital powers. The introduction of a *warm* stimulating vapour or *warm* stimulating fluid into the stomach by *means of a tube*, as recommended by Dr. de Sanctis, would, no doubt, have proved a powerful auxiliary in stimulating the vital organs. The immersion of the body in warm water, with the view of raising the temperature of the body, and thereby increasing the action of the heart and arteries, was also a very *green* practice. If the child had not the power of keeping up respiration in the air, how could they expect it when immersed in a much heavier medium ? The compression of the muscles of the chest and belly by the water must necessarily render respiration more laborious, and rather retard than accelerate the circulation. The immersion of the body afterwards in *cold* water, for the purpose of exciting reaction of the vascular system, was equally ridiculous ; for in a child, whose vital powers were kept up by artificial means, could they expect any reaction to take place after an application, which, by abstracting heat, robbed the body of a most powerful stimulus ? To increase the temperature of the body, is a primary object in cases of suspended animation, and to accomplish it, we know of no method more likely to succeed without mechanically oppressing the chest, than the apparatus invented by Mr. La Beaume for enveloping the body in warm *air*, termed the sudatory, an apparatus which should be kept in every hospital.

The remainder of this nine shilling book of the Medical and Chirurgical Society we shall notice in our next number.

TIC DOULOUREUX.—The experienced and scientific Surgeon Hutchinson, has lately published a second edition of his valuable *Treatise* on this most distressing disease, which we are glad to find contains additional evidence of the curative effects of large doses of the carbonate of iron, and many valuable practical observations.

Dr. G. D. Yates has also published *A History of a severe case of*

the disease, seated in the nerves of the right thigh, leg and foot, which was successfully treated by the carbonate of iron. The Doctor has ascertained that "the disease is well calculated to excite the *sincere* sympathy of the physician, on account of the excruciating pain with which it torments the patient."!! That disease must indeed be most distressing, that is capable of exciting the *sincere* sympathy of a physician, particularly of that class who employ their time in making politic connections, for the purpose of making merchandise of them during the seasons of affliction. The sympathy of this class has, however, never disturbed their general health, for if the patient does not keep it up by the fee, he will soon have a convincing proof of the *sincerity* of the sympathy. A lady of Hanover Square, as long as she presented her physician with a fee of two guineas on each visit, was regularly attended by one of the *sympathising* class of physicians, and supposing that his professions of friendship and his apparent feeling for her affliction, were *sincere*, she discontinued the fee, after which the man of *sincere* sympathy discontinued his visits, and she heard no more of his friendship or his sympathy.

Dr. Yeates's patient (Mrs. Y.) was 39 years of age. She was first attacked on the 7th of March last. The following day he ordered fourteen leeches to be applied along the course of the pain in the leg, but they did not produce the slightest relief. In the evening "the pain had *stretched up* the thigh in the line of the sciatic nerve." The patient, tired of the Doctor's advice, presumed "to take, of her own accord, four grains of the blue pill, and the following morning an aperient saline draught, and during the day a blister was applied to the *angle*." The pain, however, continued to increase. The constitution of the patient, the Doctor says, "was *full and succulent*, with an easily excitable fibre, being what is called nervous."!! The Doctor having discovered that the "secretions were *evidently* **EXTREMELY** unhealthy, some mercurial medicine, with the antimonial powder and extract of henbane, was given each night; the movements, by the bowels, being at the same time attended to, till the gums became a little tender, but without the slightest benefit or relief from pain." The learned Doctor now requested the assistance of Sir Henry Hallford, who, he says, "agreed with him that the disease was a *pure* affection of the nerves of the leg and thigh, unaccompanied by any morbid state of the muscular *and* tendinous parts."!! They also agreed, "that the bowels should be *mildly* attended to in the *kind* of opening medicine that might be required, and that the pain should be kept under by narcotics." The following draught was accordingly prescribed, "with the twofold object of determining to the surface, and of soothing the nerves:

"Take of Mindererus's Spirit, half an ounce;
Camphorated Mixture, one ounce;
Syrup of Poppies, half an ounce;
Tartarized Antimony Wine, 15 drops. Mix.

To be taken at noon and at night."

"Little or no relief was obtained" by this soothing and determining to the surface draught. "The pulse was slow, from 50 to 62, and soft, much below the usual celerity of her ordinary health. Notwithstanding the great calmness of the pulse," says the observant Doctor; "it was

impossible to divest one's self of the idea that there was no local inflammation in the coat of the nerve: Mr. Brodie was accordingly *good enough* to open a vein of the leg just above the ankle: very little blood was obtained, and Mr. Brodie, on examination, found the veins empty."!! The patient, however, *thought* herself relieved!!! She was afterwards cupped in the thighs, and blistered; but instead of deriving any advantage, she was more nervous, and reduced. The Doctor then prescribed the meadow saffron wine, which, in the dose of 20 drops, three times a day, irritated the bowels, and produced no good effect. Having given the depleting plan a fair trial, he now determined to adopt an opposite treatment, viz. a tonic cordial. The following draught was accordingly administered every four hours.

Take of Decoction of Bark, 10 drachms;

Soft Extract of do., 15 grains;

Compound Tincture of do., 1 drachm;

Tincture of Opium, five drops. Mix.

This medicine was continued from March the 24th to the 3d of April, "with decided relief to the pain, and by the acquirement of more comfortable feelings of general health; but still the pain and distress in the limb were at times so excessive, that it was necessary to give large doses of laudanum."

The painful malady having now lasted a month, during which time the Doctor acknowledges himself indebted to Sir Henry Hallford, "for the comfort *and* support he had afforded *him*," and "the common routine of practice" having proved unavailing, the Doctor "reviewed in his mind" the whole assemblage of symptoms, connected them with the general nervous excitability of the constitution of the patient, and called to his recollection the effects of the different means which had been adopted from the commencement of the malady. "Steel," says he, "in *some* of its preparations, presented themselves; and here *again* I felt embarrassed, from the fact, that on a former occasion of *some* symptoms of indigestion, I had prescribed steel for Mrs. Y. I believe it was the sulphat, in the form of Griffith's mixture; but it disagreed, by irritating the system: still I could not recur to any medicine better adapted than this to overcome the *mobility* of the system, connected with *nervous debility*, so clearly manifested in this case."!! Can this learned Fellow of the College suppose that the sulphat of steel (iron) exists in Griffith's mixture? Is he so ignorant of chemistry, as not to know that the iron is precipitated by the addition of the subcarbonate of potass, and that it is a sub-carbonate of iron instead of a sulphat?

The result of the Doctor's "review in his own mind," of the whole case, the *mobility* of the system, and the *clearly* manifested nervous debility, the supposed inflammation of the coats of the nerves, the *full and succulent* state of the constitution, the morbid sensibility of the *nervous* coat of the bowels, &c. &c. was a determination to administer the sub-carbonate of iron, as recommended by Surgeon Hutchinson, which succeeded in subduing the disease, and in restoring her system to health. He commenced with half a drachm of the sub-carbonate of iron mixed with treacle. He afterwards added *two* grains of powdered rhubarb and ginger, and this composition, he states, "had the *happiest* effects." The bowels showing a disposition to be *too much moved*, the

rhubarb was reduced to *one grain* ;” but, says the Doctor, “*I have several times remarked in the exhibition of rhubarb, that after it has been taken for a time in small doses, it appears to accumulate in the colon ; (although the bowels shall be moved once daily) and to cause griping with stools, and if you wish,*” observes the minute observer, “*to go on with the rhubarb, from any cause for which you may have prescribed it, it is necessary to give some mildly opening medicine before the resumption of the rhubarb. This,*” says he, “*is a PRACTICAL FACT, with which experience has made me acquainted. The infusion produces much less of this effect than the powder ; the reason is obvious.*”!! To us the reason is very far from being obvious. Probably the learned physician supposes that the extract of rhubarb, held in solution by water, is not so readily separated from the *feces*, so as to collect in the colon, as the powder!! The idea is indeed a brilliant one—rhubarb powder, after passing through digestion in the stomach, and becoming intimately blended with the contents of the small intestines, should separate and collect in the colon!!

Had an apothecary broached such an idea, we should have termed it stark nonsense ; but coming from a Fellow of the College of Physicians, a tribe who boldly declare themselves to possess a knowledge of medicine, superior to Licenciates and Surgeon Apothecaries, it, no doubt, comprises more than we can discover.

The result of his *scientific* routine practice, in this solitary case of tic douloureux, has furnished him with another important fact, viz. that “*it is from a want of discrimination as to the cause, that such a variety of remedies have taken their rise.*”!! Thus admitting his incapability of discriminating “*as to the cause,*” when he commenced the medical treatment of Mrs. Y. The learned Doctor seriously states that *he* is a friend to the “*gastric considerations of very many diseases, and to the advantages we derive from keeping the condition of the digestive organs in view ;*” and, says he, “*I do not recollect at any time more decisive good in any case, than in this (Mrs. Y.’s) by soothing and comforting the stomach in the way I have mentioned, and by giving regular movements ; although they may not have also been evacuating ones to the intestinal actions.*” Abernethy, no doubt, will feel sensibly the honor this Fellow of the College has done him, by this short, but elegantly expressed testimony in favor of his chylo-poietic system.

The Doctor, notwithstanding his admiration of the Abernethian system, thinks, “*it is not impossible that some irritation of the sensorium affects the sentient extremities of the nerves, which by reflex action increases the mischief in the brain, in a way not YET understood, but somewhat after the manner that irritation of the sentient extremities of the nerves of the digestive organs, injures the brain of young people, producing effusion of fluid there, and ultimately palsy.*”!!

To this ingenious piece of theory, is added, “*see the Author’s pamphlet on ‘Water in the Brain,’ with the Appendix, published by Burgess and Hill, Windmill street.*”!!! After this brilliant idea, the doctor met with “*a curious coincidence,*” viz. of learning, on seeing the *Bedell* (college orthography) at the College of Physicians, (whom he terms *our Bedell*;) that about three weeks ago, when endeavouring to rise from his chair *one* afternoon, he was unable to do so from a *powerless*

state of his lower limbs. He had suffered from tic douloureux for fourteen years, and the Doctor had never heard of it. This fact of a servant to the College of Physicians having been afflicted with a disease, for fourteen years, certainly does not redound to the credit of the fellows, nor confirm their pretensions to a superior knowledge of medicine. The learned Doctor does not condescend to acquaint his readers with the treatment he suggested, but he concludes his notice of the case with the following observation, with which we most cordially agree. "He will sink under it."!!

The Doctor has certainly displayed much ingenuity in extending his remarks and theories to a two-and-sixpenny pamphlet. If his object were to add his testimony to that of others, in favor of the plan of treatment recommended by Surgeon Hutchinson, he might have done it in a very few words in a periodical medical work. The Doctor was probably desirous to give publicity to his appointment of "Physician to their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Bedford," and to his Treatise on "Water in the Brain;" a work which, to the great disgrace of the medical profession of this country, has yet proved useful only, by filling some shelves in the publisher's shop. It is the first time we have heard of a regular appointment of physician being given by a non-Royal Duke, and of a physician making a parade of such an appointment. If the Duke has given the appointment to the learned Doctor, why has his *able* assistance not been solicited during the present indisposition of his patron, which is (in his own language) "*purely* medical"? That the Duke is a man of discernment, is acknowledged by all who have the honor of his acquaintance; his having consigned the medical management of his malady to men acquainted with surgery, and who have no watery fancies floating in their brains, is a proof of his good sense. Under such care, we may venture to predict, serious as his affliction is, that he "*will not* sink under it." The Doctor's work is, however, a pretty specimen of medical bombast, regular puff, and of the beauty the English language is capable of receiving, from the pen of a classic, or an English University Physician.

Mr. Edward Thompson, an eminent surgeon of Whitehaven, has published two cases of tic douloureux, which were cured by the extract of the deadly nightshade, administered, as directed, a few years since, by Mr. Bailey. With respect to the dose of the extract, Mr. Thompson observes, "no less than two grains of the pure extract should be taken: oftentimes, when the pain is excessive, three or four grains repeated at the end of five or six hours, and again till its action is manifest, are requisite, watching *minutely* its progress."

The following case we have selected, on account of the disease being clearly tic douloureux, and of affording unquestionable proof of the specific operation of the remedy. In our own practice it has uniformly failed to afford even a mitigation of pain, and in every instance has greatly disordered the head and the stomach.

Mr. R—— had been seized in March with violent racking pains in the gum of the left side, which extended up to the side of the face. After suffering some time, he had a tooth removed by a person, who gave him a tincture to apply to the part. No abatement of pain taking place, he desired me to extract a small portion of the root that had broken off, far

below the gum, being certain this was the source of the evil; and if that did not afford relief, that I should proceed to draw all the teeth on the afflicted side, situated in the lower jaw. Not wishing to bind myself to the fulfilment of so wild a scheme, other means were put in force, and he was at different times scarified, having the gums separated from back to front on both sides. He was leeches, blistered, and took large opiates, without any benefit. At his request I was prevailed on to draw a sound tooth, but with the like fortune, and I am certain he would have patiently sat till every tooth in his head had been removed, could I have assured him that, by so doing, the pain would have been in the least diminished. Pills of the extract of the deadly nightshade, each containing two grains, were ordered; a couple were only taken, when slight delirium and great vertigo prevented their continuance. These symptoms soon left him, and the pain returned no more.

SUSPENDED ANIMATION, &c.—SIRS, It has been long my wish to give, as a supplement to your popular Journal, a popular treatise on Suspended Animation, and its medical treatment; but, unfortunately, some of my correspondents on the subject, have not as yet transmitted to me the results of a repetition of my experiments, which they had undertaken to make. When I am able to bring the whole into a focus, I will lose no time in sending you the manuscript for publication, agreeably to the promise I made you a few months ago. I herewith send you a drawing of the new *Ligator*, for applying a ligature to the basis of a polypus, or other excrescences of the uterus or vagina, and of a new instrument for scarifying the gums of infants, with instructions for their use.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

London, July 20th, 1822.

B. DE SANCTIS.

The Editors will give wood-cut representations of the Doctor's instruments, with his directions for using them, in their next number. They are sorry they were not favored with his communication in time for them to appear in the present number.

DROPSY.—Messrs. Callow and Wilson, medical booksellers of London, have lately advertised a sixpenny pamphlet, under the title of "A Sovereign Remedy for the Dropsy," which was printed in the year 1805, by desire of the then Countess of Shaftesbury, the sale of which has been suspended, in consequence of the failure of the proprietor. The recipe was given to the Countess by the Prior of the Maures Benedictines of Corbie, in Picardy, who obtained it from Lemery's Choice Collection of Secrets, published in Paris, in 1740. The following is the Author's account of it.

"A Sovereign Remedy for the Dropsy."—Take of broom-seed, well powdered and sifted, one drachm; let it steep twelve hours in a glass and half of good rich white wine, and take it in the morning fasting, having first shaken it, so that the whole may be swallowed. Walk after it, if you are able, or use what exercise you can without fatigue, for an hour and half; after which you must be sure to take two ounces of olive oil; and you must not eat or drink any thing in less than half an hour after taking the oil. Repeat this every day, or once in three days, and not oftener, till cured; and do not let blood, or use any other remedy during the course.

“ Nothing can be more gentle and safe than the operation of this remedy, and it often has little or no sensible one. If the dropsy is in the body, it discharges it by urine, without any inconvenience: if it is between the skin and flesh, it causes blisters to arise on the legs, by which it will run off; but this does not happen to more than one in thirty; and in this case no plasters must be used, for they would hinder the discharge; but you must apply red cabbage leaves. If the disorder is caused by wind, it dispels the phlegm that detains the wind. It cures the dropsy in pregnant women, without injury to the mother or the infant. It also cures the asthma, consumption, and disorders of the liver. It is good for the bleeding at the nose, and for venomous bites and poisons.

“ The efficacy of the above remedy has been proved by the cure of upwards of fifty dropsical women with child, and by that of more than three hundred other people.”

The powdered seeds increasing the secretion of urine, and with the oil, operating gently on the bowels (producing very watery motions) unload the system of serum, and thereby reduce dropsical swellings. The operation of the powdered seeds on the intestines without the oil, the Countess states as uncertain, sometimes producing constipation, and in others acting as an aperient. She has noticed a few cases of dropsy, in which the remedies succeeded. Dropsy is not a primary disease, being the sequel of diseases very opposite in their nature. Diuretic and aperient medicines will sometimes succeed in unloading the system of accumulated serum; but, unless the cause be removed it will return, for the debilitating effects of such remedies will not admit of their being continued. The benevolent Countess recommends auxiliary remedies when the seed and oil do not fully succeed, as friction with oil and flannel, &c. &c. which we need not particularize, as those who may be disposed to give the treatment a trial, will of course furnish themselves with the pamphlet, and attend to the most minute instruction. We candidly confess, that we are not disposed to place any confidence in the mode of treatment; but that the remedies may have a fair trial, we have ordered a quantity of the fresh seeds to be carefully dried and powdered, at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.

SCIRRHUS and SCROFULA.—We have witnessed the beneficial effects of the Tincture of Iodine in one case of scirrhus of the mammary gland of an elderly female, and several very bad ones of scrofula. After taking the tincture in the dose of twenty-five drops twice a day in a wine-glass full of the decoction of the Iceland moss, the tumour, which had been painful, became perfectly easy, and the general health, which had been very much reduced, greatly improved. In the course of a month the tumour was reduced from the size of a hen's egg to that of a pigeon's, and at this time is not larger than a small bean. In every case of scrofulous tumefactions and ulcerations, in which we have known the tincture administered, it has uniformly succeeded in curing the local affections, and in correcting the diathesis of the constitution. A gentleman of Dublin sent us, a few days since, a small quantity of Iodine, procured at the shop of a chemist in that city, which, on examination, we found to be mixed with burnt sponge. The Iodine made by some respectable chemists in this country, is very inferior to that we obtain from

Germany. We should have stated, in our account of its effects in a case of scirrhus, that a prepared hare skin was constantly kept over the affected breast, with the hairy surface next the skin, and the bowels kept in a regular state by four grains of rhubarb powder and four grains of extract of henbane, (in two pills) taken every or every other night, as indicated by the state of the bowels.

SEDLITZ SALT.—Dr. Portier, of Paris, in a letter dated the 1st inst. expresses his astonishment that the British legislature should allow a set of unprincipled tradesmen to advertise a composition of carbonate of soda, tartaric acid, and dried sulphate of soda and of potass, as the *genuine* Sedlitz Salt. He states that he has examined the boxes of the Sedlitz Salt, sent to many chemists in Paris by the makers in England, and that he has not discovered one article which the Sedlitz water contains!! As this traffic will probably bring the celebrated alterative aperient water of Sedlitz into disrepute, he has made a formal complaint to the Chamber of Deputies, and he has no doubt, the legislature will not allow the English quacks to extend their infamous traffic over France, when Frenchmen are punished severely for dealing in nostrums of their own invention. He expresses a hope, that before the expiration of two months, he will have it in his power to send us a list of English *patent* and proprietary nostrums, which will be ordered to be burnt by the common executioner in Paris, among which, says he, you may expect to find the celebrated Sedlitz Salt, Dalby's Carminative, Godfrey's Cordial, Reynolds's Gout Specific, Welch's Female Pills, Hooper's Pills, Parson Carrington's Life Pills, Pearson's Syrup of Sarsaparilla, Dixon's Antibilious Pills, &c.

We find the true Sedlitz Salt noticed in a late number, even in the small dose of a drachm dissolved in half a pint of water, to act more efficaciously on the intestinal canal than any other saline aperient, and so far as our observations go, we are inclined to give it a preference, in what are termed bilious affections, to the Cheltenham or any other aperient salt. The Sedlitz Salt is only proper in feverish constitutions, for in people of cold or phlegmatic habits, a saline purgative often proves injurious, unless combined with an aromatic. An aperient salt, taken in a state of effervescence, as an advertised pretended true Sedlitz Salt is directed, never operates on the bowels satisfactorily, the motions being very small and frequent, and attended with an unpleasant sensation of distention of the bowels from flatus. The addition of half a drachm of cream of tartar to a teaspoonful of the true Sedlitz Salt, renders it very pleasant to the palate, and promotes its aperient effect.

GRAVEL, IRRITATION OF THE BLADDER, FLUOR ALBUS, &c.—In many cases of gravel and morbid secretion of the kidneys, (transmitted to us from Dublin, York, Bristol, and Hadfield), the extract of the *diosma crenata* (buchu leaves) in the dose of ten grains (in two pills) twice a day, with three table spoonful of the infusion, as recommended in our late Addition to the Appendix, has completely succeeded, after other diuretic remedies had failed to afford any relief. In irritative diseases of the bladder, the extract in the same dose, two or three times a day, with a wine-glass full of the decoction of marshmallow root, has been administered with the most happy effect; and in specific inflammation of the urethra, the powdered leaves, in the dose of fifteen grains, three times a day, in a glass of barley-water. For irritative fluor

albus, the saturated tincture of buchu leaves, in the dose of two tea-spoonsful, three times a day, in a glass of barley-water, is a very valuable remedy. The buchu leaves not only act powerfully in allaying morbid irritation of secreting membranes, but correct their morbid secretions; hence it is a valuable medicine in a great variety of diseases.

MIRACULOUS CURES, &c.—Some months ago, our correspondent in Berlin, sent us the case of a diseased joint, in a young lady, for which amputation had been frequently urged by her surgeon, which had been cured in a miraculous manner through the interposition of Prince Hohenlohe, who represents himself to be peculiarly favored by the Almighty.—Being hard of belief, or rather considering it as one of the idle stories of bigotry and superstition, which are common in catholic countries, and coming from a country where animal magnetism and charms are countenanced by the king himself, we committed the communication to the flames. The powers given to the Prince, of curing diseases, “by offering up mass,” are, fortunately for the superstitious of this country, not confined to the continent, for it appears by an article in the *Catholic Magazine*, under the imposing attestation of the celebrated Dr. Badeley, of great chemical notoriety, at Chelmsford, that a Miss Barbura O'Connor, a choir-nun, believing Prince Hohenlohe to be endowed by the Almighty with the power of healing the sick, requested him, by letter, to “make her whole.”—Lest any of our readers may accuse us of impiety, or want of due veneration for the sacred writings, we shall give the narrative as it appears in the *Catholic Magazine*, and in the *Chelmsford Mercury* :—

“Miss Barbura O'Connor, aged 29 years, a choir-nun of the community of English ladies, formerly established at Leeds, but now residing at New Hall, near Chelmsford, Essex, was attacked in November, 1820, with a malady in her right arm, accompanied with excruciating pain. In the December following she lost the entire use of her hand and arm, so that she could not move a finger. Recourse was had to medical art, and the most distinguished practitioners were employed, particularly Mr. Carpue, of London, to restore the afflicted limb; but without effect. From the 23d of December, 1820, till the 3d of last May, the pain continued without intermission, and the limb paralytic, though the swelling was at times reduced by the application of medicine. On the 5th of March last, Prince Hohenlohe was applied to by letter, who, in reply, dated Bamberg, March 16th, gave notice that he would offer up mass for the afflicted sister on the 3d of May, at eight o'clock, and invoke for her the sacred name of Jesus. The invalid made a retreat and a nine days' devotion, and prepared herself by a general confession. On the same day, and at the same hour, mass was likewise celebrated by the chaplain of the convent, and all the sisters communicated. At twenty minutes past eight, as the priest was beginning to read the last gospel, Miss O'Connor felt a powerful emotion; she heard a sudden crack in her right shoulder, from which a thrilling sensation darted to the ends of her fingers, the pain instantly ceased, and motion was simultaneously restored to both her arm and hand; the free use of which she continues to enjoy to this day.

“For some time previously to the cure, Miss O'Connor had left off the use of medicine. On the 3d of May, however, she was visited by

Dr. Badeley, of Chelmsford, and Mr. Barlow, a surgeon, of Writtle, who both examined her arm, and pronounced it to be in as bad a state as they had ever seen it: the wrist measured 15 inches round. They both visited her again, shortly after the sudden cure, expressed their astonishment at the change they witnessed, and attributed it to the intervention of Divine Power and Goodness. Dr. Badeley, in a letter, dated May 24, which he wrote to a gentleman on the subject, observes, in conclusion, "This, my dear sir, baffles all reasoning—What can we say—nothing; but bow in silent wonder and admiration; or burst out with the poet—"These are thy wonderous works! Parent of Good! Almighty!"

The Editor of the *Essex Mercury* has subjoined to this article, a story of a ghost, which was seen by a gentleman when in company with a Protestant clergyman and another friend in the King's wood, near Low Harrowgate. "The gentleman," says the Editor of the *York Herald* (the paper in which the account was first published), "suddenly beheld a female figure at the distance of sixty yards from him, and he instantly directed the attention of his two friends towards the object. They, however, could not see any thing of the kind, and the figure seemed to him to move rapidly towards the edge of the wood. Struck with surprise, he hastened after it; but his surprise was soon mingled with astonishment and awe—the figure vanished from his sight, like a vision, and was seen no more. His friends followed him; and they all resolved to see if the supposed woman could have passed out of the wood, by any opening in the fence. The result of their search gave a negative to the supposition—for the fence, near which she vanished, was not only complete, but the rivulet, which is two yards broad, was found to run close by it, on the outside of the wood.

"They now returned to their lodgings, musing on the past; but still unwilling to draw superstitious conclusions, and equally averse to the influence of scepticism. The story was told to the company at the house in which they were residing; and the writer heard the detail from one of the party, in the presence of the clergyman, who had been with them.

"So far, the above have only the appearance of one of those stories, into which the Novelist finds it requisite to introduce a ruin, a rivulet, the stillness of the evening, a ghost, and a lady. But," says the Editor of the *York Herald*, "we have something more to add, without which, we would not have given place to this tale of mystery, this apparent delusion of human vision. The day after this strange occurrence, the gentleman who saw that which his companions could not see, received the mournful information that a lady, a near relative of his, had suddenly departed this life, the previous evening, about the very hour when he walked in the wood."

The Editor of the *Calcutta Journal* gives a short account of the wife of a warrior, who declared that her husband appeared to her, the day after his death, when she was in bed, and *hitting* her on the shoulder, said, "Are you asleep, are you not coming?" The woman (who was only thirteen years of age) had promised him on his death-bed to follow him immediately, in case he should die: she arose, and after giving her child to the family, desired things might be prepared, as she was determined to

burn herself at four o'clock in the afternoon, which she accordingly did.—With respect to the miraculous cure wrought on the *Choir-Nun*, we have heard of many no less astonishing, which have been effected by animal magnetism in Prussia; and, indeed, in this country, by the royal touch and other charms, when superstition and bigotry prevailed in it as generally as they now do on the Continent.

The following case of night-mare, taken from Mr. Waller's Treatise on that distressing disease, very satisfactorily accounts for the numerous stories of ghosts and apparitions, which are propagated in all countries, for some political purpose.

Mr. Waller, who was very subject to night-mare, states, that one morning during a short residence with a patient, "I awoke from my sleep one morning about four o'clock, at least it appeared to me that I awoke, and heard distinctly the voice of my patient, who seemed to be coming hastily up the stairs leading to my apartment, calling me by name, in the manner he was accustomed to do in his delirium; and immediately after I saw him standing by my bed-side, holding the curtains open, expressing all that wildness in his looks, which accompanies violent delirium. At the same moment, I heard the voices of his two attendants coming up the stairs in search of him, who likewise came into the room, and took him away. During all this scene I was attempting to speak, but could not articulate; I thought, however, that I succeeded in attempting to get out of bed, and assisting his attendants in removing him out of the room, after which I returned to bed, and instantly fell asleep. When I waited upon my patient in the morning, I was not a little surprised to find that he was asleep; and was utterly confounded on being told that he had been so all night; and as this was the first sleep he had enjoyed for three or four days, the attendants were very minute in detailing the whole particulars of it. Although this account appeared inconsistent with what I conceived I had seen, and with what I concluded they knew as well as myself, I did not for some time perceive the error into which I had been led, till I observed, that some of my questions and remarks were not intelligible; then I began to suspect the true source of the error, which I should never have discovered, had not experience rendered these hallucinations familiar to me. But the whole of this transaction had so much consistency and probability in it, that I might, under different circumstances, have remained for ever ignorant of having been imposed upon, in this instance, by my senses."

We know a young lady subject to night-mare during sleep, who often experiences slight attacks when she is in the company of her friends. On one occasion she thought her father had been sitting close to her for nearly two hours.

REYNOLDS'S SPECIFIC FOR GOUT.—Mr. Norman, a respectable practitioner of Langport, in a late communication states, that he has met with a case of apoplexy, which immediately followed a dose of this nostrum. In a late number we have inserted the verdict of a Coroner's Jury, on the sudden death of a person after taking a dose of Reynolds's specific. A correspondent, who resided in the same village with the learned proprietor (who had been a banker's clerk), informs us, that he (Mr. R.) fell a sacrifice either to his own nostrum, or to the

disease for which it is recommended as an infallible specific. He was attacked by gout, and his death soon followed a dose of his specific; but his family attributed his dissolution to the disease!!! The traffic of quackery having produced to the revenue, since the duty was imposed on nostrums, about three millions one hundred and fifty thousand pounds (including duty on advertisements and licences) the respectable proprietors of nostrums are entitled to some mark of the gratitude of the Legislature; indeed, for what they have done, they have, in our humble opinion, as great a claim to a new college and other honours in the neighbourhood of the Royal Palace, as the College of Physicians. The Legislature may now boast of being the only power in the world that has tolerated quackery, and as the country is represented to be over-peopled, it may be *sound* policy.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, OF LONDON.—The King has been pleased to grant to this Society, a piece of ground near his Palace, for the erection of a *modern* edifice, more worthy the British Empire than their ancient one, which is surrounded by *slaughter* houses, and wholesale venders of nostrums. His Majesty has also conferred the high honour on the College, of allowing the future Presidents to hold the appointment of Physician to his Royal Person, and this flattering mark of his respect, he has condescended to convey to Sir Henry Hallford, Bart. in his own hand-writing. The Royal College, sensible of the distinguished honour his Majesty has thus conferred on them, have presented a most humble Address to his Majesty, expressive of their gratitude; in which they presume to “associate with this mark of his Royal kindness, the *pleasing* remembrance of the *circumstances* of their original foundation by his Majesty’s illustrious predecessor, King Henry the Eighth, and dare to presume, from so gracious a proof of his *confidence* in them, that his Majesty entertains a *favorable* opinion of their *institutions and discipline*, as well calculated to make *their* profession respectable in *this* country, above what it is in any other part of Europe, and most capable of forming a physician, worthy to be placed near the sacred person of the King.”!!! The avowed objects of his Majesty’s *illustrious* predecessor, King Henry the Eighth, in instituting this Society, were the suppression of quackery, and the encouragement of genius. Now has this body ever made any attempt to check the infamous traffic of quackery? Have not the proprietors of nostrums carried on their trade under their noses in Warwick lane, with impunity, and without any dread of interruption? What then have they done for the encouragement of genius, or the promotion of the medical science? That quackery has flourished within the limits of their jurisdiction, more than in any part of his Majesty’s dominions, they cannot deny; and with respect to *regular* medicine, we beg to ask what are their “institutions and their discipline, which are calculated to render their profession respectable in *this* country”? Instead of being calculated to bring forward genius, are their by-laws not calculated to suppress genius, or to check the advancement of medical science? Are the English Universities, of which they are graduates, proper schools of medicine? What has been their conduct towards the graduates of Edinburgh, a proper school of medicine, indeed we may say, the first medical school in Europe? When a graduate of this respectable University takes up his residence in Lon-

don to exercise his profession, the London College not only subject him to an examination, after passing the fiery ordeal in Edinburgh, but they refuse to admit him a member of the society, although the University of Edinburgh was placed on a footing with those of Oxford and Cambridge, by the terms of the Union of the two Kingdoms! In the few instances of graduates of the Scotch Universities, claiming their right to be admitted members of the College, what have been the instructions they have given their counsel? In the cases of Dr. Archer and Dr. Stanger, graduates of Edinburgh, they had the impudence to state, "that they excluded none from practice who were likely to be of service to mankind;" that "the graduates of Edinburgh, to whom they granted licences, well knew that *their examination (by the College) reached only to those lesser degrees of learning, skill and knowledge, which served merely to qualify them to BEGIN the practice in the profession in which they had entered, and that they would not have been judged worthy, upon a stricter examination, to be admitted members of the College;* that the office of physician, and member of the College, required a *considerable degree of learning, knowledge and judgment;* that the claim made by Dr. Archer, Dr. Stanger, and others, was therefore *unfair, unjust, and a fraud*, because they knew that the licence allowed them to practise only in *simple cases of disease*, and that only so long as they behaved themselves well."!!! Those gentlemen had passed the strictest examination in the University of Edinburgh, and received diplomas, authorizing them to exercise the profession of medicine, in *any* part of his Majesty's dominions; the declaration, therefore, that on *stricter* examination, they would not have been found competent to the practice of medicine, was accusing the University of Edinburgh of a most serious fraud, and the second examination was an insult to those examiners who declared them to be duly qualified.

Now, if any licentiate of the College were to make application to be admitted a *member* of the College, the reply would be the same as that they made in the cases of Dr. Archer, Dr. Stanger, and others. Dr. Babington, Dr. Farre, Dr. Pearson, Dr. Birkbeck, Dr. Uwins, Dr. Copeland, and Dr. Granville, have only been found fit to practise in *simple cases of disease*, and Drs. Harvey, Ainslie, Stone and Bree, are, in consequence of being graduates of English Universities, qualified to practise in the most complex cases!!! Neither at Oxford nor Cambridge does a candidate for the degree of M.D. undergo any examination in medicine; whereas in Edinburgh, the candidate is strictly examined as to his professional acquirements. When the latter settles in London, he is compelled to submit to another examination by the College of Physicians, composed of Graduates of Oxford and Cambridge!!! What is still more ridiculous and insulting to the Graduates of the Scotch Universities is, the surgeon-apothecary is authorized, by a late act of the legislature, to exercise his art in *any case of disease, however complex*, and consequently, in practice, he absolutely ranks higher than the Graduates of Edinburgh!!! Is it then to be supposed that his Majesty, by conferring the late honours on the College, intended to express his approbation of their by-laws, and their discipline, and to approve of their insulting conduct towards the Graduates of the Scotch Universities, men whom his Majesty well knows to be as competent to

the practice of physic as themselves? If his Majesty thought otherwise, why has he appointed Sir Richard Knighton and Sir Matthew Tierney his physicians in ordinary? men, who, according to the *liberal* laws of the College, are only qualified to attend in *simple* cases of disease.

During his Majesty's visit to Edinburgh, the Professors of Medicine and Surgery, and the heads of the College of Physicians, will, no doubt, pay their dutiful respects to him, and avail themselves of so favourable an opportunity to acquaint his Majesty with the insults his College of Physicians in London, presume to offer the Graduates of their University, on settling in the metropolis of England. If they should neglect this opportunity of supporting the dignity of their University, and of protecting their Graduates from the insult offered to their members in London by this body, they will subject themselves to the censure of men of real science, and their University will, in consequence, be reduced to a level with that of Aberdeen, or the most contemptible in Europe. We are informed, the London College of Physicians are so inflated with the late attention of his Majesty, that they have already resolved to act on the offensive, and that Mr. Abernethy, Sir Astley Cooper, Mr. Cline, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Travers, Mr. Pearson, and others, may expect shortly to be served with processes, commanding them to confine their practice to manual surgery, and that the Non-Licenciates of the College are to be driven beyond the limits of their jurisdiction!!! Now, as the College gentlemen are advocates for ancient, or what they term legitimate medicine, why not follow the example of the universities in ancient times, by throwing the gauntlet? We say that their knowledge of the nature, causes, symptoms, or treatment of diseases, is not superior to that of Surgeon-Apothecaries of the present day, and if the Surgeon-Apothecaries throw the gauntlet, will they dare to take it up? Ancient medicine was chiefly chirurgic, and we repeat what we have often stated, that no practitioner should be allowed to practise medicine who is not acquainted with *all* its branches, and that the man unacquainted with anatomy, physiology, chemistry, and surgery, is, in our opinion, entitled to no other denomination than that of a quack. Are those branches taught at the English Universities? Let us hope, however, as the College philosophers have determined to have a *modern* edifice, more worthy the British empire, they will pay some respect to *modern* medicine, and adapt their laws to the present state of the medical profession, by opening their doors to all they find on examination (we care not how strict) to be competent to practise the healing art, and no longer insult common sense and modern science, by deeming a knowledge of the "dead languages a test of medical fitness."

HEAD-ACHE, APOPLEXY, &c. &c.—SIRS,—I have been much pleased with many observations that have appeared in your work on the different causes of apoplexy and head-ache. With the opinion of Chiro-Medicus, that accumulation of blood in the longitudinal and lateral sinuses and the veins of the brain, is the cause of apoplexy in elderly people, and on the impropriety of taking blood from the temporal artery, or from the arterial system, by scarification, I perfectly agree; but for the cause of that venous congestion of the brain, we must, I think, go a little further than the head. I am myself well satisfied that the

cause of apoplexy of elderly people is to be found either in the chest, or belly, or both; I mean the impediment to the free return of blood from the brain. The principal cause is compression of the large blood vessels of the belly, from over-distention of the stomach and intestines (as full meals, accumulated fæces and flatus), from a loaded state of the cellular membrane with fat or serum, and from enlargement of the viscera by interstitial deposit. The premonitory symptoms of apoplexy in elderly people, as giddiness, lethargy, distention of the vessels of the eyes, bloated countenance, &c. &c. are uniformly attended with fulness and hardness of the abdomen, from some of the causes noticed above, and indeed, not unfrequently from an assemblage of all.—In elderly people, therefore, as your correspondent Chiro-Medicus observes, the object of practice is to remove the obstructing cause to the return of blood from the head, for in such patients the plethora is entirely local; the vessels of the extremities being in a state of depletion. The practice recommended by physicians, in general, of opening the carotid artery, or abstracting blood by cupping, (which is arterial) by diminishing the power in the system, to overcome the obstruction, is unquestionably very improper, and I have often witnessed the bad effects of it. To attribute apoplexy in elderly subjects to an increased determination of blood to the head is therefore not correct, and indeed, it is ridiculous to suppose the heart should increase in power as the person advances in age, and when all the other powers of the system are clearly on the decline. If apoplexy arose from increased influx of blood to the brain, vomiting would uniformly prove hurtful; but in all cases, where it has occurred spontaneously, or excited by art, the most happy effects have followed, and why? The answer is clear, because the circulation is thereby equalized: the blood having been propelled through the viscera, &c. of the belly and chest, and increased in the extremities, the impediment to the free return of blood from the head is facilitated. In cases of apoplexy we are therefore to abstract blood from a vessel which is concerned in returning blood from the brain, as the jugular vein; this will afford immediate relief, or avert impending danger; but in order to remove the remote cause, the bowels should be well purged, by such cathartic and diuretic medicines as will not only unload the intestinal canal, but the interstices of the viscera and the cellular membrane. In cases of impending apoplexy, I am satisfied it is of as great importance to increase the secretion of the kidneys and skin as to evacuate the intestines. The composition I have found to succeed in producing these effects, is the Bengal Pills of the late Dr. Dick, which you have noticed in one of your early numbers.—They not only produce copious *serous* and *bilious* motions, but increase the secretion of the skin; and if the predisposed to apoplexy, or those who suffer from head-ache, in consequence of accumulation of blood in the brain, would take two or three of those pills, according to their operation on the bowels, once a week or fortnight, they need not be under any apprehension of an attack of apoplexy. Although you have given the composition of the pills, I have obtained them through a friend in London, at the shop of Mr. Sanger, 150, Oxford-road, and being indebted to you for my knowledge of them, I hope you will allow me to add my testimony to your's, in their favour, as a valuable purgative medicine, in cases of head-ache, venous plethora

of the head, and in indolent states of the liver, stomach, and intestines. After the above remarks, as to the cause of apoplexy, it is unnecessary to point out the danger of overloading the stomach; it may be proper to remark, that stimulants, as Cayenne pepper, black pepper, mustard, and warm pickles, are excellent preventives, and that even a little brandy after dinner, or during head-ache, from venous distention, is, in elderly subjects, very proper. Stimulants, by increasing the circulation in the abdominal viscera, tend to facilitate the return of blood from the head, or thereby prevent accumulation.—Bandages, when brought tight round the bowels, (commonly employed by gentlemen on enjoying the chase) are very hurtful, and the sudden death of people from apoplexy, during riding with them, is to be attributed only to their checking the return of blood from the head.

If you should deem these remarks, on a disease so generally fatal in this country, worthy of insertion, I shall become a regular correspondent.

I am, Sirs, your very obedient Servant, and constant Reader,
Glasgow, July 1st, 1822. JAMES METCALFE, M. D.

INFLAMMATION OF THE EYES, &c.—SIRS,—It is common for physicians and surgeons to order a solution of sulphate of zinc and sub-acetate of lead, in water, for inflammation of the eyes, &c.; and a weak solution of zinc and lead certainly affords a very efficacious lotion in cases of active inflammation of the eye and of excoriated parts; but the lotion, as employed by physicians and surgeons, of the sulphate of zinc, and sub-acetate or acetate of lead, does not contain lead; the acetic acid of the lead uniting with the zinc, the disengaged sulphuric acid attracts the lead, and forms an *insoluble* precipitate.—If the acetate of zinc be substituted for the sulphate, the lotion will contain both lead and zinc, and will prove much more efficacious, the lead being more powerful in subduing inflammation than zinc.—I therefore beg leave to recommend the following recipe to the attention of your medical readers, as a topical application in cases of external inflammation, particularly of the eye, urethra, and ear.

Take of acetate of lead, }
Do: of zinc, } of each, five grains.

Distilled water, eight ounces.—Mix.

I am, Sirs, your constant Reader,
London, July 12, 1822. J. P. SURGEON.

PRESERVATIVE AGAINST CONTAGION.—A physician to a fever institution, of considerable experience and chemical knowledge, in a letter, dated the 12th inst. observes, "Although I am of opinion that the typhus fever is not contagious, but produced by a certain condition of the atmosphere on unhealthy constitutions, or habits predisposed to disease, I am satisfied that such constitutions may be secured against the influence of the atmosphere or effluvia from the diseased, by smelling occasionally, and carrying about them a handkerchief sprinkled with a solution of camphor, in the pure pyro-lignic acid. By impregnating the air of the room of the sick with this acid, (by sprinkling it over the cover of the bed and the floor) the immediate attendants and inhabitants of the house will also be secured against the fever; and the inhalation of the air, thus medicated, I have found to prove more beneficial in restoring the patient to health than medicine taken into the stomach."

The following is the doctor's prescription for making the solution :—
Rub a drachm of camphor, with half an ounce of alcohol, in a glass of water, and then add five ounces of the pure pyro-lignic acid.—The typhus fever prevailing in many parts of London, and in several large towns of England and Ireland, the doctor thinks it very probable, that it will considerably increase in the month of August and September, and he therefore advises a family, in every parish, to be supplied with the camphorated concentrated pyro-lignic acid. The price of a pint bottle of the solution being only four shillings and six-pence, a quantity sufficient for thirty families.

ESSENCE OF LAVENDER.—M. Souchet, a French chemist, has ascertained, that the oil of the *flowers* of lavender is rendered more delicate in its odour by age; but to prevent its becoming glutinous by keeping, which it is very apt to do, he has drawn it over in a water bath, with a small quantity of alcohol, which he terms the essence—this, after being kept closely corked for about seven years, he has found to possess a peculiarly fine delicate odour of lavender, entirely free from empyreuma, which is discernible, more or less, in the English and foreign oil of lavender, and of course the lavender water which is made with it. M. Souchet has sent us a quantity of his essence, that the English may have an opportunity to satisfy themselves of its superiority over the most celebrated English lavender water. The French and German chemists are not only very particular in making chemical articles, but, in consequence of the cheapness of glass, fuel, and labour, are able to undersell the chemists of this country. The essence of lavender made by M. Souchet, is not only very superior in odour to the lavender water of this country, but a three shilling and sixpenny bottle will be found equal to the ten shilling bottle of the Bond-street lavender water.

The compound spirit of lavender, made with the essence of lavender, according to the following recipe, is very superior to that sold in this country :—Take of Nutmegs, bruised, } of each, three drachms.
 Cinnamon bark, do. }

Red Saunders, half a drachm. Mix and infuse for a fortnight in a quart of the best French brandy, (shaking the bottle for a minute or two every second day) then add essence of lavender, two ounces: after standing about a week, the liquid may be poured off clear for use.

DIABETES.—Dr. Dods, an eminent Physician of Worcester, (the author of the *Physicians' Guide*) informs us that he has found magnesia, administered as directed by Dr. Trotter in our last Number, to succeed in a case of incipient diabetes. The patient (a female) was about thirty years of age, and of a thin spare habit. The Doctor is preparing a new edition of the *Physicians' Guide* for the press.

CANCER.—A meeting of the friends of a Mr. Whitlaw was, a few days ago, convened in the city of London, to take into consideration the propriety of establishing an institution for patients afflicted with cancer, to be under the superintendence of that gentleman, who pretends to have discovered, in the *vegetable* kingdom, a specific remedy for the disease. Mr. Moore, the member for Coventry, spoke in high terms of commendation of Mr. Whitlaw's professional abilities, and of the infallibility of his treatment of cancer, of which he had had ocular demonstration.—The remedy being a vegetable product, the learned member considered

a great recommendation, because it can therefore do no harm!! Now as Mr. Moore is not capable of distinguishing a cancerous from a scrofulous or syphilitic ulcer, his *ocular* proof amounts to nothing, and as to his assertion that the remedy is incapable of doing mischief, because it is a vegetable preparation, it is ridiculous in the extreme, for the strongest poisons we possess are from the vegetable kingdom. A Clergyman also stated, "that he had seen a cancer of the scalp with arteries and veins exposed, which was cured by Mr. Whitlaw."!!! Such a declaration proves *his* total ignorance of cancer. Mr. Whitlaw's meeting of friends was much *enlightened* on the subjects of cancer and quackery, as well as on the *real object* of the meeting, by the liberal and scientific remarks of Mr. Rennie, an experienced surgeon of London, which we are happy to find had the effect of abating their enthusiasm. If Mr. Whitlaw's friends suppose that he has really discovered a remedy capable of curing cancer, why not put it to the test, under the superintendence of two surgeons of an hospital, who would furnish him with *genuine* cases of the disease, not common phagedenic ulcers, which any old woman, by a vegetable remedy, might cure.

If Mr. Whitlaw were the man of science his friends represent him to be, he would not submit to any thing so truly disgraceful, as to attempt to remunerate himself by curing a disease by a nostrum—a practice which must place him, in the opinion of every respectable member of the profession, among the despicable class of quacks. The declaration made by his friends at the meeting, that he would keep his remedy a secret until he had properly remunerated himself, seems to imply that it will not answer his purpose to put it to a fair test of experiment. The generosity of the legislature, in case of its succeeding to cure this formidable disease, he cannot doubt. Such conduct would be highly creditable to him as a man of science and humanity, and the reward by government would far exceed the income he might make from the proposed institution, and at the same time, by giving him consequence, would tend more to increase his practice than the testimonies of men unacquainted with the character of the disease. The results of the few experiments Mr. W. has made with his supposed specific for cancer, which have reached us, are very far from realizing the positive assertions of his friends, and we advise the friends of this gentleman to put his practice to the test of fair experiment; viz. in cases which have been declared to be *true* cancer, by a surgeon of respectability, before they solicit donations from the public for an institution which would probably prove as beneficial to cancerous patients as the Ophthalmic Hospital did to the unfortunate British soldiers, afflicted with the Egyptian ophthalmia, which was erected by government at an enormous expense, to enable Sir William Adams to *cure* the disease. The *blind* ardour of Lord Palmerston, and other friends of Sir William Adams, on that occasion, has been very properly censured in the House of Commons, by Mr. Moore himself. From the results of the important discoveries of Sir William Adams, on *his own* representation, and of the specific for stone, which was purchased by government, as well as the case of the old woman, who, according to *her own* declaration, and the *testimonies* of a few *ignorant* attendants, "was delivered several times of a litter of pigs or rabbits," we advise the patrons of Mr. W. to draw an useful lesson.—Who is Mr. Whitlaw?

OXYGEN, &c.—A subscriber, in Exeter, informs us that a gentleman, who had been endeavouring, in vain, to produce slight salivation, by taking large doses of the blue pill, and rubbing in the strong mercurial ointment, for some weeks, became suddenly salivated, after inhaling three quarts of oxygen gas daily, for three days. The same correspondent states, that acupuncture has been employed in that city, with complete success, in cases of deep-seated rheumatic pains, after the most active remedies had failed.

HYPOCHONDRIASIS.—A clergyman, residing in the county of Durham, states, in a letter of the second instant, that in three weeks after he had adopted the composition of rose leaves, &c. (noticed in our seventy-seventh number), in lieu of the foreign tea, he was entirely free from the most distressing sensation about the region of the stomach, dejection of spirits, and general lassitude, which his physician had termed hypochondriasis, and for which he had taken all the nervous articles of the Pharmacopœia, without deriving from them any permanent benefit. His "dreadful malady," he attributes to the baneful effects of tea on the nerves of the stomach; and asserts, that had he continued it many weeks longer, he would have fallen a victim to it. The composition of rose leaves soon removed the symptoms of indigestion, increased the strength of his body, and calmed his mind.

PYRMONT TABLETS.—In the advertisement of this nostrum, the proprietor states that he was "regularly bred to physic, and that, after *infinite* pains and attention, he *invented* his tablets, during his residence at Pyrmont, containing all the medical qualities of the celebrated waters of that place, which are requisite for the cure of piles."!! "After numbers of unerring proofs in *his own* practice, and receiving the approbation of *all* his medical acquaintance, in the course of their practice, the inventor has been induced, from motives of pure humanity, to offer the nostrum to the public, for the *benefit*, not of himself, but of the afflicted with piles." The tablets "are also a most sovereign, and, perhaps, the *only* effectual remedy for that *dreadful* kind of worms, known in medicine by the name of *ascarides*; and, as an alterative, he has found them to deserve the first place in medicine; they correct the fluids, keep the skin perfectly free from eruptions, and are so pleasant to take, that children will eat them as sugar cakes."! The benevolent proprietor, notwithstanding the infallible specific operation of his tablets on piles, has found it necessary to *invent* a liniment, to be applied to the seat of the disease, to which he has given the name of the "*Pyrmont Liniment*."!!

On examining the *Pyrmont Tablets*, we have not been able to discover any other ingredients than the flowers of sulphur, sugar, and Armenian bole!!—So much for their containing the medicinal properties of the Pyrmont water!!! That the learned proprietor's object in giving publicity to this wonderful discovery (sugar, flowers of sulphur, &c. in a mineral water!), is the benefit of the afflicted with piles, *ascarides*, and eruptions of the skin, and not of himself, is evident, from the *low price* of two shillings and sixpence a packet, which could not have cost him less than three-halfpence!!!

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OF DOCTOR BANKHEAD,

*A Licensed Physician of the Royal College of London, and Body Physician
to the late Marquis of Londonderry.*

THIS eminent practitioner is by birth an Irishman. After receiving a classical education in the capital of his native county (Londonderry), and serving 'an apprenticeship to a surgeon and apothecary, he obtained the appointment of Surgeon to the Londonderry Militia, of which the Father of the late Marquis of Londonderry was commander. Having secured the friendship of his Lordship, and, as he supposed, the patronage of a family of great weight in the state, by the attention he had paid him during several slight indispositions, the Doctor resolved to obtain the academic honour of M. D. as the most likely means of making the most of such immense interest. He accordingly repaired to Edinburgh to attend lectures on the different branches of medicine, and the practice of the Royal Infirmary; and after keeping the necessary terms, he took the degree of M. D. The learned thesis he wrote on this occasion, the Doctor has not published, nor did he condescend to acquaint his biographer with the subject of it.

Being decorated with a physician's diploma, the next object was to select a proper field for exercising his professional talents, and turning his powerful Irish patronage to the best advantage. Brighton being then the most fashionable watering place in England, and the resort of those families which were likely to notice him; and being also within the sunshine of royalty, (a most important consideration,) the Doctor determined to make his *debut* in it, and for a short time the eclat with which he was brought forward by the Londonderry connexion was most encouraging. Here he has continued to exercise the healing art for several years; but the golden results have not been so gratifying as he had anticipated, or, indeed, had a right to expect from such high connexion. His Irish friends introduced him to the King; but although his Majesty had ample opportunities of discovering the extent and depth of his professional acquirements, he never availed himself of his *medical* advice. At the period of the year, when the families, which keep up the spirit of the fee trade in Brighton, quitted the place for London, the Doctor evinced his gratitude to his patrons by following them. The *guinea* trade, however, during his winter residence in town, has not proved more productive than it did in Brighton, for here we have very seldom heard of him as a *physician*. The melancholy catastrophe which terminated the life of his steady patron, the late Marquis of Londonderry, has given great publicity to his name; but whether the skill and judgment he displayed on that afflicting occasion will tend to introduce him to

"the first practice in London," to which his Biographer* asserts, "his connexion cannot fail to raise him in a few years," is to us somewhat doubtful. On the treatment of his patron previously to the much lamented catastrophe, and the presence of mind and surgical skill he displayed on discovering the wound in his neck, we shall make some *practical* remarks in our present Number, under the head of Suicide. The Doctor has neither enlightened nor amused the profession by publishing the results of any new mode of treating the maladies incident to his fellow creatures, nor by inventing any new theory. Being a man of sound judgment and minute observation, he has no doubt made a valuable collection of facts, which the faculty may expect to see in print, when he has leisure to arrange them for the press. And as his professional reputation will probably never rank higher than it does at the present moment, he will no doubt see the propriety of losing no time in giving them publicity.

In moral philosophy, the Doctor has for the last twenty years of his valuable life, maintained a high character for independence and originality. Of the beauties of animated nature, he has been, since reason has dawned on his mind, a warm admirer; and so convinced has he been that man was destined to be the protector of the softer sex, that we may venture to assert, that no female, who has been under his care, has had just cause of complaint of his want of attention or sympathetic tenderness. If indeed, he merited the title of the *gallant* surgeon, when he held the appointment to the Londonderry Militia, which his patron, the commander, often gave him; he certainly, in no less degree, deserves that of the *gallant* physician in private practice: and such a character, with a certain patronage, not unfrequently succeeds to the highest honours in medicine, &c. in these virtuous and enlightened times, as Sir R. Knighton and Sir Everard Home well know.

MEDICAL OBITUARY.—In this department of our work, which, to considerate invalids and hypochondriacs, affords much matter for serious reflection, we have to notice the deaths of two Members of the Royal College of Physicians, a class of practitioners who pretend, by virtue of an obsolete charter, to possess a superior knowledge of the healing art; viz. Sir Christopher Pegge and Dr. Pemberton. Of the former gentleman, we have given a biographical sketch in our Fifty-seventh Number, and of the latter, in our Twenty-fourth Number. *Sir Christopher Pegge*, although he held for many years the appointments of Physician to the Radcliffe Infirmary, and of Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology in the University of Oxford, has run his medical career, without leaving any fact or theory, to perpetuate his name in the medical literature of his country!! He had been long subject to asthma, which, notwithstanding he employed all the remedies which have been recommended by regular physicians, and irregular and regular quacks, he was not, in his own case, able to prevent that alteration in the structure of arteries and effusion of serum in the chest, which

* Authentic Memoirs of eminent Medical Men, p. 416.

in general terminate the lives of asthmatics. By keeping the system in a quiet state, by abstemious regimen and attention to the bowels, and by employing an anodyne, occasionally, to allay irritation in the lungs, if he did not prolong his life, he certainly rendered it more tolerable.

Sir Christopher was a good anatomist and physiologist; and as a classic, he was an ornament to the university in which he had so long filled the important chair of Regius Professor of Medicine. Although, for the last ten years of his life, he principally resided in London, he has seldom taken any part in the affairs of the College of Physicians. He was a decided enemy to the humbug of medicine, and severely condemned the illiberal restrictive bye-laws of the College, which threw obstacles in the way of medical improvement. On one occasion, he observed, that the public had been cruelly deceived by the doctrines of antient as well as modern physicians; and that it was by means of technicalities, and the use of dead language, that a certain set of physicians have for so long a period been able to carry on the farce. When speaking on the subject of medical reform, which has ever been a sore one to the College, he emphatically observed, "No attempts to effect it will succeed; for the College of Physicians, and the leading Members of the College of Surgeons, will strenuously oppose it, and their combined influence with the legislature will render an application to that quarter unavailing; but," said he, "take my word for it, the progress of medical science among surgeon-apothecaries, and the diffusion of medical knowledge among the bulk of mankind, will upset the antient institutions, and reform will follow, in spite of the opposition of all the colleges in the world. The humbug is already too glaring, and will soon work its own reform. Being an asthmatic, an old friend asked him what he thought of Dr. Bree's Work on Asthma? He sarcastically replied, "Such works are certainly of some service, in amusing the minds of people afflicted with *chronic* diseases; even the nostrums of advertising quacks are sometimes beneficial to restless hypochondriacs, by affording comfort to the mind." In private life, Sir Christopher Pegge was highly esteemed by a most respectable circle of honourable and right honourable acquaintances. He was the real gentleman and the practical Christian, anxious to please all parties, and to do as much good as lay in his power.

Dr. Pemberton.—This gentleman had been for some years afflicted with that most acutely painful malady, the tic douloureux, for which he had taken all the remedies that have been recommended for the disease, some of which afforded no relief, and others only a trifling palliation. Having published a Treatise on the Viscera of the Abdomen, to a disordered state of which, like the liver or bile-doctors of the present day, he attributes nearly all the disorders which assail human nature, he paid proper attention to the state of his stomach and bowels; but the result convinced him that tic douloureux is not *always* symptomatic of or dependent on a disordered state of the viscera of the abdomen, as he had stated. The Doctor held several consultations with the leading medical men of the country

on his own case; and it is a fact worthy of notice, he condescended to take the opinion of men who were not Fellows of the College, and even of those practitioners, whom the College had resolved not to meet in consultation!!!

It is said, that in a multitude of counsellors there is wisdom; but to medical consultations the old adage of "too many cooks spoil the broth," is, we fear, most applicable. In the case of Dr. Pemberton, the result was more in favour of the latter than the former. Dr. K——n declared, that in many similar cases he had administered the true pale Peruvian bark with the extract, with complete success; and he was certain, if the learned Doctor would persevere in taking it *long enough*, it would certainly cure him. Sir Henry observed, that he had witnessed some good effects from bark, but in his opinion there was nothing like arsenic; that arsenic is a more powerful tonic than the bark, and *therefore* more certain in its effects; that when it was pushed far enough to *puff* the face, it never failed to cure the disease. Mr. A emphatically observed, that physicians, in looking after specifics, had misled themselves and their patients. That experience has taught him that the chylopoietic functions are the prolific source of all the diseases which have been termed *local*. Correctly speaking, there is no such thing as *local* disease; as the Doctor had no doubt read his work, and attended particularly to what he has stated in page 65, he would only notice a few points. He would recommend him to take every other night five grains of the blue pill;—"that I have done," replied Dr. Pemberton. "Sir," observed Mr. A. "I did not come *here* to learn your practice, but to tell you what I would do, if the case was my own. You may adopt or decline the mode of treatment I shall suggest, as you may think proper."

"Now, Sir, with the blue pill, in the manner I have mentioned, I advise you to take a tea-cupful of a vegetable decoction once or twice a day. The sarsaparilla or cascarilla is perhaps as good as any. To each dose you may add ten or fifteen grains of carbonate of soda. Well, Sir, having quieted the stomach by such means, the next thing is to keep up a proper discharge from the alimentary canal; and for this purpose, you may take a table-spoonful or two of tincture of senna, and tincture of rhubarb, in equal parts, according to the state of bowels, every, or every other day. Having done so much, think no more of medicine, but attend to diet, explicit instructions for which I have given in my book, which, if you have not already got, you may obtain of Messrs. Longman and Co. in Paternoster Row." The doctor asked him if he might take porter during dinner. "Sir," replied Mr. A. "have I not told you I have said all that is necessary on the subject of diet in my book? but, to prevent any further discussion, I tell you I have no objection to porter, if you will take porter's work." Sir A. C. could not agree with Mr. A. He was satisfied there are such things as *local* disease, but that to conquer them, it was often necessary to attack them locally, and through the medium of the constitution. By such treatment he had succeeded in curing tic douloureux more formidable than that with which his much esteemed friend, the learned doctor, was

afflicted. For the constitutional attack, he had been long convinced there is nothing like the carbonate of ammonia; and, for the purpose of giving the malady the death-blow, the topical application of lead would certainly prove successful, by paralysing the diseased nerve: more to the point he could not say if he preached a whole year. Dr. L. begged to be allowed to observe, that if lead really possessed the power of paralysing nerves, such a disease as *tic douloureux*, in which the affected nerve was evidently in a state of *increased excitement*, would never have come into action in the learned doctor's head. Mr. T——s warmly recommended lunar caustic, which he had administered in cases very similar, with the most encouraging results. He recommended him to take it, dissolved in water, with a few drops of the nitric acid, to prevent precipitation. Mr. B. said, he had attentively listened to all the suggestions of the learned gentlemen, but that nothing had "dropped from their lips" to shake his confidence in the *belladonna*; if he were ever to get well, it was by taking the extract, and applying it externally. The doctor observed that, in his juvenile days, he had taken rather too freely of the *bella donna*, and that he should be afraid to venture on it in the present state of his general health, which he attributed much to *quacking* himself. Mr. H. recommended the carbonate of iron, which he was certain would fortify his constitution, and restore the affected nerve to health. The doctor gave all the modes of treatment recommended by his medical counsellors a trial; but the only one which afforded much relief was the carbonate of iron: it, however, succeeded only in abating the anguish of the disease. At length apoplexy supervened, and suddenly proved fatal.

By the death of the doctor, the College of Physicians have lost a member, who would have lent his aid to carry into effect any law they might make to monopolize the practice of medicine. Although he published a work on Diseases of the Viscera, evidently for popular perusal, he violently condemned popular medicine, and all attempts in others to communicate medical information. Such works he censured as the most dangerous quackery. To enable the public to form an opinion of the professional abilities of a medical man was, in his opinion, a crime of the greatest magnitude—it was no less than treason against that venerable antient institution, the Royal College of Physicians.

To the Sketch we have given of this physician in our twenty-fourth Number, we have nothing further to add, than peace to his manes!

SUICIDE.—Dr. J. P. Falret, an eminent French physician, has published an interesting work on Hypochondriacism and Suicide. He notices the instances of Barthez, Chatterton, and others, to prove that a tendency to commit suicide is often hereditary. Suicide is generally an act of insanity; and that insanity is often hereditary, no medical man will deny. The doctor gives the case of suicide in a child of seven years of age, and one in a girl of twelve, because she stood only second in her class. He is of opinion that climate has nothing to do with suicide; but he attributes much to the effects of the *refinements* of civilization and *political reverses*, which

will sometimes make suicide appear as an epidemic; much to violent passions, such as disappointed ambition, love, &c.; and he thinks the agency of *physical* causes, as the abuse of spirituous liquors, mercury, &c., and of visceral affections, have been greatly exaggerated. "In all these latter cases," observes the doctor, "it will be found that *moral* causes have produced or preceded the visceral disorder. Other circumstances have also convinced him that *moral* pains are more powerful and more destructive than *physical* pains." In discussing the general causes, or such as arise directly from *political* and *religious* institutions, philosophical sects, &c., Dr. Falret gives the first rank to absurd fanaticism in religion. "The stoical philosophy, which tolerates suicide," he says, "has been too severely criticised." "It has," says M. Bricheteau, in his review of Dr. Falret's work, "produced great men and great virtues." Dr. F. denies that more suicides occur in France than in England, notwithstanding the great difference in the population of the two countries. A predisposition to suicide is often attended with profound sadness, invincible dread, or desire for solitude, and a susceptibility of the impressions of moral and physical causes. "The act, however," says Dr. F. "is *always* accomplished under a state of increased excitement;" it is, indeed, in his opinion, always an act of delirium. Dr. Bricheteau denies this, and evidently with reason; for insane subjects have accomplished it, not only with great coolness and precision, but with a degree of ingenuity, of which a delirious subject cannot be capable. The maniac is perhaps always aware that, by the act, he will terminate his worldly existence; but the man in a fit of delirium has no such idea, and, in the execution of the deed, shews nothing like ingenuity or precision. We lately had conversation with a gentleman who had thrown himself out of the window of a second floor during a fit of delirium. A lamp-iron fortunately broke his fall. He perfectly recollected opening the window, for the purpose of making his escape from two men, whom he fancied he saw on the opposite side of the bed, with large knives in their hands, one of whom appeared to be ready to plunge a carving-knife into his body. It is probable that all who have committed suicide in this manner during delirium have been influenced by such imageries.

Dr. F. states, that dissection has not illustrated the *causes* of suicide, but he thinks, and no doubt correctly, that the brain is always primarily affected. In those cases which Dr. F. terms *delirious suicide*, the substance of the brain has always been found to be inflamed; and even in cases of cool and deliberate suicide, that organ has been frequently found in a morbid condition. We are therefore at a loss to conjecture what the Doctor means, by saying that dissection has thrown no light on the cause of suicide. In the late unfortunate case of suicide, which has deprived our country of a very able statesman, and in private life a real good man, there are many points worthy of observation. We are told, his physician, Dr. Bankhead, has attributed it to insanity, arising from *debility* of brain, which followed over exertion of the mind, particularly in the House of Commons. For three or four days previous to the fatal catastrophe, his coup-

tenance and his manners strongly evinced a disordered state of his brain. About two or three days before he inflicted the fatal wound, he was seen, in a state of confusion, purchasing the knife of a Jew boy, in the open street, with which he perpetrated the deed. Is it not most extraordinary, that no active means were adopted by his physician, to quiet his brain, or by his friends about him, to prevent the commission of an act of violence? His Lordship complained of great confusion of head, *attended with pain*. Dr. Bankhead *ordered seven* ounces of blood to be abstracted by cupping, and a saline purgative to be administered. The abstraction of blood afforded much relief, for his Lordship became more collected, and obtained some refreshing sleep. Now, on such a subject as the late Marquis of Londonderry, with such an affection of the brain, what effect could the learned Doctor expect from the loss of *seven* ounces of blood? If the Doctor had any doubts as to the condition of the brain of his patient, which, from the appearance of his eyes, and the presence of acute pain in the head, was clearly inflammatory, why did he not order the operation of cupping to be repeated, and a quantity to be abstracted, proportioned to his Lordship's habit, and the importance of the organ which was effected, after the effects of bleeding had removed all mystery from the case? As there was evidently great nervous excitement of the brain, why not apply blisters to the nape of the neck and to the legs, and a cold lotion to the head? Had such active treatment been employed at the time the Doctor ordered him to be cupped, might not His Lordship have been at this time in the enjoyment of health?

When Dr. Bankhead saw the Marquis, immediately after he had inflicted the wound, he did not observe any hæmorrhage; but when he was prostrate on the ground, he discovered it. This to us is most unaccountable:—although his Lordship desired him to catch him in his arms, he did not see the blood which must have been thrown out with considerable force from the wounded side of his neck, until he was on the floor!! When he did discover the wound, instead of taking up the artery, or attempting to stop the hæmorrhage, by pressure, he shewed his gallantry by running to the Marchioness to acquaint her with the calamity that had befallen her Lord and Master.

In all the cases of division of the trunk of the carotid artery we have heard of, the first hæmorrhage did not terminate life: the bleeding in each was suspended by syncope, and had the doctor applied ligatures to the divided ends of the artery, instead of leaving his patient, the result might have been more creditable to him. Similar cases have done well; but the *Doctor*, although he held the appointment of surgeon in the army, perhaps thought, as many Members of the College of Physicians do, that by performing a surgical operation he would derogate from his dignity as a physician. The Doctor *slept* at the Marquis's house, to be ready in case of emergency, and if he was not competent to bleeding, or taking up an artery, his attendance could not be of much advantage to his patient.

The circumstances of his Lordship having purchased the knife a few days before he committed suicide, and the nicety with which he

divided the artery, have induced some to suppose that he could not have been deranged. But, as we have already observed, insane people often display much ingenuity in planning their destruction; and his Lordship betrayed symptoms of a disturbed imagination for some days prior to the act;—indeed, the act of suicide is in itself a host of evidence of insanity; for no person would commit it, who was capable of exercising his reason on the subject, or sensible of the enormity of the crime.

ACETATE OF MORPHINE.—Dr. Alloneau, of Thouars, has published eight cases, in which he has given this remedy to adults, in doses of a quarter of a grain to one grain, daily, beginning sometimes with a quarter, sometimes with half a grain. Of these eight patients, five were consumptive: the remedy was given to allay the cough, and to procure sleep. In two of these cases it succeeded, in the three others it failed. The other three patients had chronic diseases of the ovary, the heart, and the stomach. This last patient was entirely cured. The affection of the heart was relieved by it; but the effect was only temporary. In the case of diseased ovary, it cured all the numerous sympathetic irritations that existed; but the complaint remained unchanged. Dr. Magendie had before employed this medicine to relieve the pain of a schirrous breast. The author confirms the observation of Mr. Lens, that morphine in these doses does not cause the excitement, head-ache, constipation, nor stupor, as opium and laudanum do.

GANGLION.—Mr. Selwyn, a scientific surgeon of Ledbury, informs us, that, in a case of unusually large ganglion, situated on the back of the wrist of a female, he employed a large seton, with complete success. The silk was introduced through the centre of the tumour, and a discharge was kept up for some weeks. Very little irritation came on, the tumour gradually decreased in size. When it appeared to be reduced, so that nothing remained but its cyst, he withdrew the silk, and applied pressure, to produce adhesion.

WEN, GREEN SICKNESS, &c.—A medical gentleman of Horsham, in Sussex, has found the tincture of iodine, taken internally, very beneficial in dispersing wen. He states that, in his practice, ten drops of the saturated tincture, taken three times a day, succeeded in removing the complaint, in the course of five or six weeks. The subjects were all females, about the age of puberty. A physician of Liverpool informs us, that he has administered the saturated tincture of iodine, with wonderfully good effect, in many cases of green sickness, attended with symptoms of approaching consumption, and also in incipient phthisis.

RHEUMATISM.—In America, an ointment of stramonium, made by gently boiling six ounces of the recent leaves (bruised) in a pound and a half of fresh hog's lard, till they become crisp, is in high repute as a remedy for this disease. The size of a nutmeg, Dr. Turner, of Philadelphia, has found to remove rheumatic pains, after electricity and other powerful liniments, with internal remedies, had totally failed; and Dr. Zollickoffer says, that he has known the stramonium ointment to succeed in cases of rheumatism, after

the internal exhibition of the tincture of stramonium had no effect. For internal use, the Doctor prefers a tincture of the leaves (made in the proportion of an ounce and a half of the dried leaves to a pint of proof spirit) to the extract.

ON THE PECULIAR PROPERTIES OF PURGATIVE
MEDICINES.—By MR. SCOTT.

(Continued from page 156.)

SCAMMONY.—The plant that produces this article of medicine grows spontaneously in Cochin China, Syria, Mysia, and Cappadocia; particularly on the chain of mountains which extends from Antioch to Mount Lebanon; it flourishes also on Mount Taurus, and in the plains between Latachia and Tripoli Syria: in fact, on most of the Syrian hills, which are productive of vegetation, the Scammony plant may be found. Aleppo is the principal market for it; to which place it is brought (principally by Jews) from the various villages, near to which it is collected; as Antioch, Maraash, Shogre, Edlib, &c.

Scammony, (or *Mahmoody*, as the natives call it,) is the milky juice of the root of the plant, dried in the sun. It is a resin; *generally* of a grey colour; is *very light* and *brittle*, breaking easily *with the mere pressure of the fingers*; and is shining in its fracture. The merchants try it, by touching it with the point of the tongue, or the extremity of a wet finger; when, if it be genuine, it immediately *turns milky*; but this test is not to be relied on, for, as it is often adulterated with *flour*, the same effect will be produced by the bad as the good.

Genuine Scammony, if broken and thrown into water, is QUICKLY DISSOLVED; forming a MILKY liquid of a GREENISH HUE; which, after a short time, deposits a VERY SMALL sediment; the fluid remaining PERMANENTLY milky. This experiment is the best test of the purity of the drug.

The *colour* of Scammony is exceedingly variable, and is by no means descriptive of its real quality; various specimens of the best samples of the article being found of almost every degree of colour, from deep black to a yellowish white; which those who collect it attribute to the different methods of drying it: but, yet *all good and unadulterated scammony, whatever may be its external character, agrees in one general appearance, when powdered; that is, a brownish white colour.*

It is adulterated with a great variety of substances; as flour, fine sand, ashes, earth, &c. It is also mixed with the expressed juice of the root, stalks, and leaves; which renders it very hard and insoluble, and considerably lessens its purgative qualities; for it has been ascertained, by experiment, that neither the flowers, leaves, stalks, nor seeds, possess cathartic properties.*

* Dr. Alexander Russel, who resided at Aleppo, made some experiments to ascertain the properties of different parts of the scammony plant. He says, "to a person with whom a scruple of very

Scammony, administered alone, and without undergoing any process necessary to correct its virulence, is a strong, rough, violent, and griping cathartic. It is so precarious in its operation, that a considerable dose *fails*, often, of producing *any purgative effect*; whilst a dose, which may be regarded as a *small one*, will sometimes act *with alarming violence* and to a dangerous degree. Its influence on the nervous structure of the bowels is so great, that in weakly and delicate persons its stimulus produces considerable general irritation; and in children, it is sometimes seen even to occasion convulsions.

But with all its disadvantages, Scammony was found to be such an efficacious purgative, that practitioners were desirous of effecting some change in its condition, by pharmaceutical means, that might obviate its bad effects, and insure its good ones; and for this purpose, a variety of expedients were adopted, particularly that of subjecting the scammony to the action of sulphureous vapour; but this process *destroys*, not corrects its purgative qualities, as was observed as long ago as the time of Boerhaave: "For how is the nature of medicines changed by their various preparations? The *Syrian Scammony*, given pure, dissolves the humours into a putrid water, and then carries them off, by stool; *yet the same medicine by being exposed to the vapour of burning sulphur, as in making the DIAGRIDIUM SULPHURATUM, is rendered almost INACTIVE.*"* With the same view, the article was formerly treated with vegetable acids, as the juice of quinces and of lemons; but it is now known that resinous substances in their union with them, undergo such a disarrangement of elementary combination, as either weakens or destroys the qualities dependant on it.†

weak scammony used to work by stool, six times; I gave an infusion of half an ounce of the dried leaves, with their small stalks, in eight ounces of boiling water, *without having the least possible effect on him.*

"One drachm of the seeds powdered and made into a bolus, given to the same person, had *as little effect.*

"Half an ounce of the dried root (from which the scammony *had not been extracted*) boiled in twelve ounces of water, to the consumption of one-third part of the liquor, worked the same person, by stool, without occasioning any gripes, sickness, or any manner of uneasiness; and this, upon several trials had the same effect.

"To another person, a like quantity worked, by stool, four times, but occasioned a *nausea* during the whole time of its operation, though no gripes.

"The same quantity of the decoction from a root, from which the milky juice *had been extracted in the usual way, by incision*, worked the first mentioned person three times, by stool.

"This decoction of the root is entirely without smell, and rather sweetish than disagreeable."

* Page 16, of Introduction of Van Swieten's Commentaries on Boerhaave's Aphorisms.

† It is of course conceded, that the properties of all compounded substances are derived not only from simple combination of their

The drastic effects of scammony, arise from the same cause that produces a similar result from other resinous cathartics, viz. its insolubility in the intestinal juices; for it is an ascertained fact, that those medicines, whose peculiar stimulus is directed upon the stomach and bowels, if their nature is such that renders them unfit for solution and absorption, keep up, during their passage through the alimentary canal, an incessant irritation, which continues until they have been expelled along with the excretions which their stimulus has furnished; and so pertinaciously do they sometimes adhere to the internal coat of the bowels, particularly scammony, that even inflammation itself has been produced by the violent action in weak and irritable constitutions, and convulsions in delicate children. It is remarked, in the Introduction, page 17, of Van Swieten's Commentaries, the "Five grains of *mercurius vitæ*, given to a woman in a maniacal case, wrought *no effect*; though, before she was afflicted with this disease, a few grains of scammony threw her into fainting fits through the violence of its operation." The uncertainty which attends the exhibition of scammony, is probably owing to the coincidence of two circumstances;—1st, the insolubility of the drug; and, 2d, the state of the intestines under its administration. The most unfavourable condition of the bowels for an effective action of cathartic medicines is that, in which the internal surface is covered with a superabundant viscid mucous secretion, so tough and adhesive as to be with difficulty dislodged. Such a state of bowels is a very common concomitant of various affections of infantile life; and as it is in the cases of children that failure of the remedy most frequently occurs, a probable cause may be thus attributed to the conjunction of these two circumstances. But fortunately, the means of counteracting both lies in the power of the same remedy. Alkaline and neutral salts are found to increase the solubility of resinous substances; and by their chemical action on the mucous secretion of the intestinal tube, are effective agents in removing it when either superabundant or depraved: so that a combination of this class of medicine with scammony, renders the latter a safe, useful, and generally certain purgative; its tendency to gripe also is considerably diminished if its particles be divided by comminution with saccharine or gummy matters, or combined with aromatics or essential oils.

EXAMPLES.

Take of Scammony, ten grains;

Cream of Tartar, a scruple.

Rub them together, and form a powder, to be taken in a little honey

peculiar elements, but as well also from the *proportions* in which they may be mixed, and the *forces* with which they may be united. Re-agents, therefore, that loosen or weaken this attractive impulse; that induce new arrangements amongst the particles composing the body acted on; or that effect new compounds by their own affinity, forcing them into chemical union with it, necessarily change both the medical and physical qualities: as will be particularly illustrated when treating of senna.

or treacle. In this manner the action of the scammony is rendered more certain and less irritating: the following prescriptions are examples of the same kind:—

Take of Sal Polychrest, half a drachm;

Scammony, ten grains.

Mix for a powder, to be taken in a cupful of water gruel; or,

Take of Scammony, fifteen grains;

Soluble Tartar, two drachms;

Decoction of Liquorice Root, six ounces.

Mix. Three table-spoonsful to be taken every hour until it has produced the effect desired.

In the preceding examples, the solution of the scammony is favoured by the addition of the salt, and although in the two first formulæ, the salt directed is not strictly speaking a neutral (neither acid nor alkaline), yet the alkaline base effects the object required. In this view of the subject, the custom of combining acids with *resinous* purgatives seems to be injudicious, and that frequent combination, therefore, of *tamarinds* with scammony, extract of jalap, and with *senna even*, is at best equivocal.

It is more than probable then, that the uncertainty, as regards the operation of scammony, is owing principally to the condition of the bowels: when they are so lined with mucus, that the internal membrane has a slimy covering that defends it from the action of substances passing along the canal, the scammony, of course, is propelled through it, without producing any impression, and no catharsis ensues; but, upon the other hand, when it is administered during a state of inflammation or irritation of the alimentary passages, or of deficiency of intestinal secretion, the undissolved resinous cathartic, coming in immediate contact with the arid membrane, irritates it violently, producing either tormina, without free and copious evacuations, or painful hyper-catharsis. These effects should be obviated, as far as the means will allow, by triturating the scammony with some alkaline salt, or by dividing its particles with almonds, sugar, &c. and adding, as occasion seems to demand, a little warm stomachic medicine, as tincture of cardamoms, cinnamon, or ginger, or the compound cinnamon powder, aromatic confection; or, if made into pills, two or three drops of the essential oil of cloves, nutmegs, caraway, or aniseeds: thus protected, scammony will generally be found both safe and mild, operating quickly and powerfully, and may be administered in the dose of three or four grains, up to twelve or fifteen. It is of inestimable value in hypochondriacal, maniacal, hydropic, and worm cases; chronic inflammation of the liver, and of the spleen, habitual costiveness, mucous obstructions and accumulations of the intestines and ducts which open into them, &c. For some of which the following formulæ are examples:—

FOR CHRONIC INFLAMMATION OF THE LIVER:

Take of Scammony, one scruple;

Extract of Dandelion, four scruples.

To be made into 24 pills, three of which may be taken every night and morning.

IN WORM CASES:

Take of Scammony, six grains;
 Extract of Jalap, two grains;
 Cream of Tartar, ten grains.

Mix for a powder, to be taken in the morning. This form is well adapted for the removal of effusion in the cavity of the belly, or the slimy secretions of the bowels, which afford a nidus for the worms.

Or,

Take of the above Powder, twelve grains;
 Calomel, three grains;
 Loaf sugar, ten grains.

Rub them together, mix in a table-spoonful of honey, and take it at bed-time.

The basilic powder is an admirable combination of scammony, with some other cathartics, for the expulsion of worms.

IN DROPSY:

Take of Scammony, six grains;
 Cream of Tartar,
 Powdered Senna Leaves, of each one scruple;
 Powdered Ginger, five grains.—Mix for a powder.

FOR HABITUAL COSTIVENESS:

Take of Scammony, two scruples;
 Compound Powder of Cinnamon, one scruple;
 Powdered Jalap, two scruples;
 Oil of Lavender, ten drops.

To be divided into thirty pills, two or three of which may be taken as occasion requires.

Scammony, as ranking amongst the resinous purgatives, must be regarded as a powerfully propelling cathartic, and, like others of the same class, calculated to act more particularly on the larger bowels; but at the same time (similarly to aloes) is capable of receiving such a modification, by its combination with other articles, as to fit it for acting on the superior parts of the alimentary canal.

To be continued.

POISONOUS DOSE OF OPIUM.—At a late meeting of the London Medical Society, Mr. Wray, an eminent Surgeon of London, related some instances of individuals, whom he had roused from a state of stupor (occasioned by swallowing large doses of tincture of opium) by dashing, *suddenly* and *repeatedly*, on their heads, basonsful of cold water. The effects in all the cases, were very remarkable; the stupor was so completely removed, that the patients were able to swallow emetic draughts, which succeeded in emptying the stomachs, and in obviating any bad consequences.

Dr. Copeland has lately published the following article, under the head of "The most Efficacious Means of Remedying the Effects of Opium, when taken in *poisonous* doses," from the pen of Mr. Sprague, a scientific surgeon of Kingston-on-Thames. "The truly distressing catastrophe which lately happened to the Archbishop of Armagh, by tincture of opium, given, in mistake, for some other medicine (in which unfortunate case the united skill of *fashionable* physicians proved of no benefit to the patient,) has naturally excited

much public concern, and induced me at this time, to earnestly solicit the attention of my professional brethren to what I have found to be the most efficient means of remedying the dangerous effects of opium. This potent, but invaluable medicine, is frequently taken by design, or administered by mistake, as in the instance of His Grace, the late Archbishop of Armagh; and there is every reason to believe, that many deaths are occasioned by a failure of the means commonly made use of as antidotes. It must be granted, that whenever a medical man is called to a case where opium has been taken, in a poisonous dose, he should, without any delay, make use of the most powerful measures to counteract its deleterious influence. The *Materia Medica* furnishes us with many efficacious remedies, which, if timely administered, will generally prove successful; but to produce so desirable a result, they must be given in *proper* doses, and *promptly* and *energetically* applied. We are informed, by authors, that "the first thing to be done, is to endeavour to evacuate the contents of the stomach, by an active emetic." But in such cases, that organ is rendered so insensible to stimuli, that all the emetics commonly advised to be given, such as sulphate of zinc, or copper, emetic tartar, &c., frequently fail to produce vomiting, as must have been witnessed on many mournful occasions. The following is more to be depended on, and will seldom disappoint the anxious desire of the practitioner in rousing the action of the stomach:—

Take of Sub-carbonate Ammonia, one scruple;
Ipecacuanha Powder, half a drachm;
Peppermint Water, three ounces;
Tincture of Capsicum, one drachm and a half.—Mix.

To be given as soon as possible.

If the patient has lost the power of deglutition, the draught should be introduced into the stomach, by means of a flexible hollow tube, or a large sized gum elastic catheter. Next, let a little of the liquor of ammonia be introduced up the nostrils, by means of a feather, and a piece of folded linen, wetted with the same, laid over the region of the stomach, which sometimes raises an instantaneous blister, and always proves useful. A single drop of the spirit of hartshorn (being less caustic than the liquor of ammonia) should be cautiously dropped into the external corner of the eye, which, by being diffused over the globe, by the motion of the eye-lids, has the most beneficial effects. The patient's head should be kept in the erect position, and folded cloths, dipped in the *coldest* water, constantly applied to it, whilst the lowest extremities are to be immersed in water, as high as the temperature can be borne. A sufficient time having elapsed after the emetic has been given, its operation should be promoted, by giving a quart of warm water, in which has been mixed two tea-spoonsful of flower of mustard. After the stomach has been completely emptied, a strong decoction of coffee should be taken frequently, prepared by boiling two ounces of coffee, coarsely ground, and half an ounce of bruised mustard seeds, in a pint and a half of water, for three minutes, and strained; a tea-cupful should be given every half hour, with a table-spoonful of lemon

juice, for the space of three or four successive hours. All the means before specified, should be used as expeditiously as possible, and the following clyster administered, without delay :—

Take of Rectified Oil of Turpentine, Castor Oil, of each one ounce; Yolk of Egg, a sufficient quantity; mix, and add, gradually, Decoction of Oatmeal (Gruel), ten ounces; Spirit of Sal Volatile, three drachms; mix. To form a clyster, to be injected as soon as possible.

If we are so fortunate as to rescue our patient from the impending death, occasioned by the primary effects of the opium, we have afterwards to counteract the great degree of exhaustion, which takes place as a secondary consequence, and also to obviate constipation of the bowels. The former is best effected, by giving brandy or other cordials, in small quantities, in strong coffee, at proper intervals, and by the use of the following medicine.

Take of Infusion of Cloves, one ounce and a half;
Spirit of Sal Volatile, one drachm;
Tincture of Capsicum, half a drachm;
Syrup of Ginger, one drachm and a half. Mix.

To be taken three or four times a day. Or the following:

Take of Infusion of Chamomile flowers, ten drachms;
Dilute Vitriolic Acid, twenty drops;
Tincture of Orange Peel,
Tincture of Cardamoms, simple, of each one drachm;

The latter intention, namely, evacuating the bowels, and keeping them open, is most effectually done by the following medicine:—

Take of Senna Leaves,
Confection of Spearmint, of each half an ounce;
Bruised Coriander Seeds, two scruples;
Hot Water, eight ounces;

Digest for two hours, and then strain.

Take of the above Infusion, seven ounces;
Glauber Salts, one ounce;
Tincture of Senna, six drachms;
Spirit of Sal Volatile, Two drachms. Mix.

A fourth part of this mixture is to be taken every two hours, until the bowels are open, and repeated, as occasion may require.

In conclusion, to assist the convalescence, I would strongly recommend the shower-bath to be used every morning for a fortnight, which has an excellent effect in restoring the lost tone and energy of the system. I have thus endeavoured to concentrate the most decidedly efficacious practice in cases of poisoning by opium; and I can, with the more confidence, recommend the above treatment, as I have witnessed its *complete* success in several desperate cases, where the usual means resorted to had entirely failed. Wishing this to be altogether a *practical* paper, I have carefully abstained from theorising on the effects of opium on the human system, which, by interfering with my present intention, would merely have had a tendency to amuse the speculative imagination. "Give me facts," observed a Judge; "thy conclusions are but the guess-work of imagination, which puzzle the brain, and tend not to solve this mystery."

Mr. Collier, of Norfolk-street, in the Strand, has lately communicated to the profession, a mode which he proposes for effectually rousing the system in cases of poisoning by narcotics. His method consists in scattering some hairs of cowage over the body of the patient, particularly about the head, neck, and arms. The effect is said to be almost immediate.

Whilst on this subject, we shall take the opportunity of presenting our readers with Mr. Jukes's account of his experiments, which he has been kind enough to transmit us; the apparatus which he uses having been described in a former Number, and the manner of using it, we shall at once go into the subject of the experiments.

"On the 12th instant, I swallowed a drachm of laudanum, undiluted, and immediately afterwards a pint of tepid water. Having my apparatus ready, I passed the flexible tube into the stomach, and drew off *rather more than a pint* of fluid, mixed a little with the previous contents of the stomach, and smelling strongly of opium; being satisfied, from the perfection of the instrument, that the stomach was emptied, I desisted from any farther experiments, and sat down, to wait for any sensations that might be produced, *but I experienced none*; and after a short time, ate my dinner with appetite.

"August 14th.—This day, at noon, when I concluded the stomach was empty, I swallowed two drachms of undiluted laudanum, and immediately afterwards a pint of warm water; this was instantly drawn off, as in the former experiment, and occasioned me no subsequent sensations.

"15th.—I drank this morning half an ounce of laudanum; and, having as quickly as possible diluted it, by drinking a pint of warm water, the tube was passed, and the liquid withdrawn; in this experiment, as in the two preceding, I experienced no effects from the opium.

"16th. At two o'clock P. M. I swallowed ten drachms of laudanum, in the presence of my friend, Mr. James Scott, an eminent practitioner of Westminster; and having immediately afterwards drank a quart of tepid water, Mr. Scott passed the tube into my stomach, and drew off a pint of fluid, strongly impregnated with opium, and having emptied the elastic bottle, and again applied it, drew off another pint of a similar liquid. The bottle was now filled with warm water, which, being forced through the tube into the stomach, returned, flavoured *slightly* with opium. Another pint of water was now in the same manner injected into the stomach, and when withdrawn, exhibited to the taste and smell but the faintest trace of the medicine. Another pint of water was, however, thrown in, and withdrawn, when Mr. Scott, feeling perfectly satisfied of the entire removal of the laudanum, the experiment, which had occupied about ten minutes, was discontinued.

"I began now, however, to experience sensations of nausea and giddiness, which, though they might perhaps have been occasioned by the absorption of a portion of laudanum, I am myself inclined to attribute to the irritation of the fauces and stomach, produced by the instrument, and the large quantities of warm water. The ~~water~~

increasing, and a disposition to sleep supervening, I threw myself into a recumbent position, and soon lost the disagreeable feelings in a sleep, which continued profoundly for three hours. I had slight head-ache on awaking, my tongue was loosely covered with an orange fur; and though my usual dinner-hour had passed, I had no disposition to eat. I now drank several cups of strong coffee, and, in a very short time, was restored to my usual state of health and feelings, and having taken, during the evening, occasional draughts of lemonade, the desire for food returned, and I ate some supper, as though my stomach had not been disturbed.

"Having ascertained, by experiments on my own person, that laudanum might be safely introduced even in very considerable quantities, into the stomach, I took the earliest opportunities of repeating them upon others; and, in three instances in which I have subsequently administered an ounce of laudanum (one of which was a female), the poison was extracted with the usual apparatus, without the slightest symptoms of uneasiness remaining to the patient."

We would by no means advise professional men to repeat Mr. Jukes's experiments upon the human subject, until they have rendered themselves quite "*au fait*," in the use of the apparatus, which requires some little practice. Mr. Jukes very properly, and yet with much boldness, commenced his experiments with the laudanum upon himself; and not until he had ascertained the safety with which it could be introduced into the stomach, did he venture to exhibit it to others. He has certainly satisfactorily proved that his apparatus is capable of removing the fluid contents of the stomach, and consequently of obviating the fatal tendency of laudanum, if it be resorted to soon after its administration; and much credit is due to him both for his ingenuity and perseverance. He is one of the several instances which have occurred in medical practice, of their starting into a profession, which was neither contemplated in their education, or their subsequent pursuits; and the difficulties which he must necessarily have encountered, by immersing into the active duties of a complex and abstruse science, he has combated, by an unwearied assiduity, assisted by a mathematical genius, which, even in professions of the highest exercise of mind, adds strength to thought and to action. What, but such a constitution of mind, drew John Hunter from the lathe, to adorn and enrich the annals of surgery with some of its most imperishable tenets, or that transformed the late Dr. Bradley from the angry pedagogue into the scientific physician? The instruments for emptying the stomach (manufactured by Mr. Gill) are simple and ingenious; and we sincerely wish Mr. Jukes may both witness and hear of the success which he anticipates from them. Mr. Sprague also, who is a surgeon of very superior practical knowledge, has turned his attention to the same views; and it will be a source of much satisfaction to us, to receive the reports of any of our fellow-creatures being rescued from a premature grave, through the suggestions of either.

SUSPENDED ANIMATION.—SIRS, I have perused the late pamphlet of Mr. J. Carson, of Liverpool, on the Resilient Action of the Lungs, which you were pleased to favour me with, as a work from

whence, besides the physiological and pathological applications of the author himself, something might probably be inferred relative to my researches on suspended animation. You will see, at the end of the subjoined reflexions on that work, that you were not mistaken in your conjecture; and it seems to me, that their last periods might be perhaps considered as well as a theoretical improvement in the pathology of suspended animation, as an additional reason of circumspection in doubtful cases of death. I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

B. DE SANCTIS, M. D.

Of the University of Rome.

The *resilient power of the lungs*, in their ordinary state, has been theoretically explained and practically demonstrated by Mr. Carson, of Liverpool; and if it has not been calculated with precision, it was sometimes on account of the insufficiency of the apparatus, or sometimes of accidental occurrences affecting the results. But what apparatus could ever calculate exactly so variable a force? It seems this disposition to a farther contraction, and much more to the former one, when distended by external force, belongs to the lungs, in a much greater degree than to any other part of the human body; and it seems even to increase daily, till a certain maximum, since the entrance of the atmospheric air into the bronchia, when the fœtus comes into the world. Then the pressure of the air on the surface of the body, tends to push the blood more copiously than before towards the cava, as the veins are more yielding, and certainly less elastic, than the arteries. Hence the farther development of the pulmonary artery, receiving more blood from the greater quantity of its collecting in the cava, and the new course of circulation, and consequently the farther development of all its numerous ramifications, and the joining ramifications of the pulmonary vein, where there is less action allowed to the pressure of the external air, as they are all under the cover of the resilient power of the lungs. Hence the greater nourishment of the lungs, by the augmentation of secretions and absorptions, which are aided by the new proceedings, constituting the function of respiration; and hence the augmentation of their natural elasticity, the resilient power of which is able to counteract a part of the pressure of the atmospheric air, since their very first admitting it, and their first dilatation and subsequent contraction. For giving an easier way to the augmented current of the blood just now described, the chest must expand with the help of the muscles, which are able to increase its capacity, by their contraction, either *sympathetically* excited, or excited by the power of the fœtus in its exertion to relieve the overcharged lungs. The effort, however, is not very fatiguing, where, besides the influence of the not much known, but nevertheless existing means of *sympathy*, some of the muscles stimulate each other by their respective action. The diaphragm too seems to be put into contraction by all these causes collectively taken. The greater part of these movements, however, is voluntarily exercised at first, and become afterwards spontaneous by habit; but under certain limits, they continue to remain under the command of the will. This seems to

be the mechanism of respiration ; but Mr. Carson does not give any weight to the afflux of blood in the chest, at the first impressions of the external air on the body of the fœtus, which, by the bye, is the first result of the resilient power of the lungs. The exclusive weight, however, which he gives to the greater pressure of the air into the lower part of the diaphragm, as not being entirely counteracted at its upper surface, on account of the resilient power of the lungs, is not to be despised. It is a cause, as he thinks too, of painful sensation, and it must always contribute to the contraction of the muscle, but slightly in comparison with the above-mentioned ones.

The physiological application which the author makes of the resilient power of the lungs, to the necessary emptiness of the arterial system in any case of death, which did not originate, or at least is not accompanied by the decided collapse of the lungs, artificially procured by the free communication of their external surface with the atmospheric air, is as interesting as it is new and true. When the force of the heart begins to languish, and with it the vital elasticity of all the sanguiferous system, it is natural the blood should accumulate, where there must necessarily be the least resistance, and particularly in that part of the venous system, as it happens, which is under the cover of the resilient power of the lungs. It was really a desideratum for completing the demonstration of the famous Harveyan discovery, through the repulsion of any kind of objections or difficulties, at least, which might have been suggested by the circumstance of arteries being always found empty after death. But the author is not equally right, when he speaks of the arterial irritability ; and he is waiting for what is known, when from the extraordinary state of equal repletion of the capillary veins and arteries in animals dead with collapsed lungs, he augurs to the anatomy, farther discoveries of their relations. Mascagni, by facts and reasoning, has as well destroyed the arterial irritability in the human body, and in the generality of the arterial system in other animals, as shewed in the utmost details, by his new method of injecting the real relations of the capillary part of the sanguiferous system. It might be perhaps convenient to the generality of the medical profession in England, to have an extract, in English, of the *Prodomo-Opera postuma di Paolo Mascagni compilata da Francesco Antommarchi, &c. &c. &c.* ;* and when I shall be thoroughly

* This Work has been called *Prodomo*, as being the introduction of a larger one, which Mascagni was preparing, under the name of "*Grande Anatomia*." This Great Anatomy (of which two publications are going on, one at Florence, under the direction of Professor Vacca, from the original plates of Mascagni, and another at Paris, under the direction of Dr. F. Antommarchi, with lithographical plates, taken from the first engravings, very much improved by the most affectionate disciple of Mascagni, who was the compiler and the editor of the *Prodomo*, and at nearly half price of the other publication) will not admit of any abridgment whatever, as the real work is in the plates which are intended to represent in natural

acquainted with the English language, I intend to do it, if it should not be taken in hand by another. I would not say the same of the conveniency of Mr. Carson's therapeutical applications of the resilient power of the lungs in the cure of phthisis; but what appears ingenious to the mind, is not always the best remedy at the bed-side. The *theoretical* difficulties arising from the very resilient power of the lungs, about the union of separated pulmonary fibres, whatever might have been the internal cause of their separation, and the *possibility* that their union in some cases of external causes having acted on them through the chest, might have been favoured, as Mr. Carson thinks, by the introduction of the external air pressing on the external surface of the wounded pulmonary lobe, are not a sufficient ground for the admission of such a *bold* remedy as the opening of the chest for curing pulmonary consumption. If too little air be introduced, its action might not be sufficient to determine the desired collapse of the diseased lobe, or of the first operated one (in case both of them should be diseased), as a little quantity of air, in its new state of dilatation, might not exercise the pressure of the atmosphere; and besides, amongst living surfaces, might soon undergo chemical changes, and perhaps disappear by absorption;— if too much be admitted, through a larger incision, where is the hand that can stop at will its *farther influence*, besides the production of the collapse, during the collapse, and even after it, being no more requisite, if ever so? But why the pulmonary fibres might not be cicatrized at their separated extremities, notwithstanding their resilient power not putting them into contact without the collapse; when other elastic fibres having been cicatrized, notwithstanding motion had prevented their union by first intention, and still opposing it afterwards? Let, however, large incisions be made through the chest, in a pulmonary lobe, as those which I have witnessed in military hospitals, sometimes even with a considerable loss of external substance; the air spreading at its external surface, will not prevent the expansion of the corresponding part of the chest; and it is the most frequent case, that, instead of only external air entering the space, originating from the elevation of the chest, the air descending from the trachea will still expand a little the wounded lobe; and afterwards, the compressing re-action of the chest will let the air escape through the wound, not only from the outside of the lung, but even from the interior of the lobe, as may be seen with the help of hollow probes introduced into the pulmonary wound. Now I cannot say if patients, labouring under confirmed phthisis, might suffer such incisions without serious consequences; and certainly ribs could not be taken out; for rendering

dimensions, and under the best points of view, the different systems of the human body, in their relative positions; but the *Prodromo* might admit of it, and some few selected figures of the many hundreds, might be sufficient for the purpose of exhibiting the outlines of Mascagni's anatomy of the primitive organic elements, and solid physiology of the principal functions of the human body, which are the chief subjects of that Work.

the collapse perfect, as in physiological trials upon rabbits, would be an experiment more formidable than the disease !!!

Might not the new resilient principle contribute to a better explanation of symptoms in some cases of asthma, dyspnoea, hooping-cough, &c. &c.? The want of this power, and particularly at an advanced period of life, might account for the greater difficulty of the expiration, and might, perhaps, be a cause provoking stronger action of the muscles to keep up respiration. Might it not even happen in a spasmodic rigidity of the diaphragm, and all the other muscles contributing to the respiration, that a slight degree of respiration, sufficient to maintain the last sparks of life, go on, by the only resilient power of the pulmonary cells? The external air could always continue to expand towards the upper surface of the spasmodically contracted diaphragm, the pulmonary cells; and their reaction might afterwards render it more easy to the warmer columns of air, unfit for further use; their natural ascension, on account of their specific gravity, being, in the generality of cases, lighter than that of the external air. If all the muscles, directly or indirectly participating of the respiratory function, should be in a state of spasmodic rigidity, the diaphragm being free to contract and relax alternately, then the respiration might go on even better than before, and also without any appearance of alternate elevation and depression of the abdomen, as the contraction of the diaphragm would only exercise an internal compression on the abdominal viscera, on account of the resistance of the spasmodically contracted abdominal muscles. And might not a sufficient circulation of blood go on, on such circumstances, notwithstanding its imperceptibility at any external artery, when sometimes, even some minutes after decided death, the heart has been found moving on the opening of the chest? In such cases, the known trial of a dry glass applied to the mouth of the patient for distinguishing the apparent death from the real one, by the cloud which it produces, might be of no use, as the aqueous part, accompanying the expiration, is very far from being in the same quantity as in the ordinary expiration. The chemical analysis of the air, slightly coming from the lungs, by means of some lime water, &c., might, perhaps, be the only way reserved to the assistants for ascertaining the real nature of the case; particularly when not the least trace of spasmodic rigidity should appear by the stiffness of the chest and abdomen; and nevertheless the diaphragm might only be spasmodically contracted, the remaining muscles being only paralyzed. Such cases are not of the same degree of probability as the former ones, but they are not repugnant to the laws of nature; and I have heard, more than once, of my patients having had the appearance of being dead for days and weeks, without any signs of respiration and circulation, and even without any stiffness whatever of any part of the body. If such cases should not call for a sudden employment of the re-animating means, they ought at least to command greater circumspection than in ordinary cases of death; and, if decided putrefaction should not ensue, it would certainly be a good precaution to wait more than prescribed by laws and uses of the country before burial. These last reflex-

tions tend to prove the possibility, nay, the probability, of a new state of suspended animation, arising from a more or less extended spasmodic rigidity of muscles more or less directly or indirectly partaking of the respiratory function! I should be disposed to call it, *Spasmodic asphixia*.

The history of medicine affords but too many facts of people having been buried, when the only spasmodic asphixia might account for life having been kept so long before burying, and for the vital principle having been put again in action some time after burial from the sudden want of respirable air. In fact, such events are frequently spoken of in those countries, where the corpses are not put in coffins previous to their interment in the vaults, or only at the very moment of their burial; and they are not kept longer than twenty-four hours or two days at the very most. The case of the famous traveller, Ali Bey, tends to give an additional proof to the existence of a state of suspended animation from spasmodic asphixia originating from thirst. After long protracted pain, he happened, in an African desert, to fall in such a state from want of water. He says that, before falling breathless on the ground, he felt a sense of stricture in the throat and all over the region of the diaphragm; and the same sensation is felt by every one at the approach of this dreadful accident. But, notwithstanding the total want of the appearance of respiration and circulation, the last sparks of life are not extinguished. In fact, the patient was restored by water being poured on him plentifully, and some of it given him to drink as soon as the first signs of life appeared, and more and more as the decreasing spasm of the throat allowed a freer deglutition. The same method is generally practised with success by Africans on any fellow sufferer of the kind, when they have water, even some hours after the accident.

HABITUAL COUGH AND EPILEPSY. — Mr. Ogden, a scientific Surgeon, of Ashton-under-Lyne, has published the following case of habitual cough, which immediately terminated on digestion taking place in an extensive burn:—

"J. Oulton, a boy, aged six years, had been troubled with cough, accompanied by profuse expectoration, from the earliest period of his life; this was always attended with such a rattling noise, that his breathing, when asleep, might be heard in the adjoining room. He was also, about two years ago, attacked by epileptic fits, returning at intervals of nine or ten weeks; but these were always brought on, or preceded, by a deranged state of the alimentary canal, for which he occasionally took mercurial purgatives; and, during the fits, glysters always brought away very large quantities of clayey stools.*

"He was in this state, when, on the 22d of October, 1821, his clothes caught fire, and he was burnt in a most shocking manner, the skin being removed with his clothes from the whole of the thorax in front, and from a considerable portion of the abdomen. Indeed, there was so large a portion injured, that I expected him to sink under the irritative fever; but, happily, I was deceived.

* I apply the word *clayey* to denote both colour and consistence.

"I employed turpentine applications for the first few days, but was under the necessity of discontinuing them sooner than I intended, from their producing universal erythema of the skin. His breathing continued the same as before, until suppuration was fully established, when his cough, wheezing, and expectoration suddenly ceased; nor have any of these symptoms returned to this period, and he now enjoys a better state of health than he ever experienced previously; he is, in fact, a fine healthy child, for since the 20th of November last, he has had no return of his epileptic fits; nor has the state of his bowels required any medicine for a considerable time past.

"The process of healing in this case, as might be expected from the extent of skin destroyed, proceeded but slowly; nor did I feel anxious for its rapid progress, especially towards the latter part of the time, fearing a return of the cough, &c. on the stopping of this drain.

"The whole period occupied by the process of healing was near seven months; it proceeding regularly, but slowly, from circumference to centre; there not being left the least portion of undestroyed skin, in the midst of this extended sore, that could serve as a nucleus from whence healing could extend towards the circumference.

"Does not this case point out the propriety of employing perpetual blisters and *moxa*, in obstinate pectoral diseases, over a much larger surface, and of continuing their use for a much longer period, than has been customary?"

About twenty years since, we witnessed a case of very severe burn of the right arm, which happened during a paroxysm of epilepsy. The lower part of the arm had sustained so much mischief, that the hand sloughed off, with a great proportion of the skin and muscles of the arm. When we saw her, she had been under the care of Mr. Loftus, an experienced surgeon of Chepstow, about four months, who preferred waiting for the exfoliation of the injured bones to amputation. During this time she remained free from attacks of epilepsy, although previously she had been subject to a recurrence of a fit, two and sometimes three times a week. The process of exfoliation going on very slowly, and her general health declining rapidly, in consequence of the copious discharge of pus from the surface of the wound, and the severe pain she almost constantly experienced, we had recourse to amputation. A few days after the healing of the stump, she experienced a return of her malady, but the fits were less violent, and, for many months afterwards, recurred only once a fortnight.

There is one fact mentioned by Mr. Ogden, which merits particular notice; viz. that the cough ceased immediately on a *purulent* discharge taking place from the surface of the injured part. This occurrence is not at any rate to be attributed entirely to the derivative operation of the burn; for it appears, that, during the inflammation and pain, the cough continued unabated, and that it ceased when the inflammation and pain had greatly abated, or entirely subsided, which is the case on digestion of a burn. In cases of habitual cough or organic disease of the lungs, &c., we have always found

perpetual blisters most beneficial, when a purulent discharge was kept up; and the late Mr. Crowther assured us, that perpetual blisters, in cases of diseased joints, never proved beneficial, unless attended with a proper discharge of pus; and it was on this account he always employed the savin ointment, in preference to any other application, being the only one he knew to possess the property of keeping a blister open, and at the same time producing a thick purulent discharge. The Spanish fly ointment, employed by some surgeons, occasions a watery discharge, which produces no good effect. The fresh irritation it excites, Mr. Crowther had often found to increase the internal mischief. We hope Mr. Ogden's case will induce surgeons to pay a little attention to the nature of the discharge from perpetual blisters, setons, &c., and not leave the management of them entirely to nurses. Mr. Crowther found it so difficult to keep up a proper purulent discharge, even by the savin ointment, that he always applied it himself.

SMALL POX AND COW POX.—Dr. Gregory, Physician to the Small Pox Hospital, at St. Pancras, has lately made the following very sensible Report of the effects of Cow Pox, &c. to the Governors of that Institution :—

“ Your Physician desires to call your attention to the proceedings which have taken place within the walls of your Hospital during the present year, in so far as they have fallen under his cognizance as medical attendant of the institution; and to report upon the degree of benefit, to the community at large, which your establishment during that period may claim to have effected.

“ Sixty-nine patients labouring under the casual small-pox have been admitted between the 1st January and 5th June, 1822. Of these, 35 have had the disease in a severe, and 34 in a mild, form: 44 have been discharged cured; 18 have died; and 7 remain under treatment. The proportion of admissions, of severe cases, and deaths, is nearly the same as that of the two preceding years; and it shows that, although small-pox has not been particularly prevalent in the metropolis, it has yet lost nothing of its malignity; and that the same necessity exists now, as formerly, for those measures of prevention and relief which it is the humane design of your institution to provide.

“ It is peculiarly gratifying to your physician to report, that the department of your establishment appropriated to vaccination has prospered, during the last five months, in an unexampled manner :—1524 persons have been vaccinated at the hospital during that period, being an increase of one-fourth above the numbers of the former year. It must afford great satisfaction to the governors to observe that the confidence of the public in the efficacy of vaccination would thus appear, from their books, to be on the increase: and it may be presumed that such is the general feeling in London, when it is considered that the applicants for vaccination at this hospital are not confined to its own immediate neighbourhood, but are spread over the most distant parts of the metropolis.

“ The regularity with which mothers attend with their children at the stated periods during the progress of vaccination, is highly

exemplary; and it has the double advantage of enabling your physician to certify the correctness with which the process has been gone through, and to ensure to the public at all times an ample supply of vaccine lymph in its most perfect state.

"The nature of your Institution has afforded to your physician opportunities of forming a judgment on several points connected with vaccination, which attract a great share of public attention; and he is desirous of reporting to the governors to what extent he has observed small-pox to prevail after vaccination, and how far the occurrence of such cases has already influenced, or appears likely in future to influence, the practice of cow-pock inoculation.

"In the present year, 22 out of the 69 who have been admitted, state themselves to have undergone vaccination at some former period. Seven of them had the disease in a severe and unmitigated form, and fifteen in that mild and modified way to which the term "varioid" is usually applied. In the larger proportion of instances, the *mildness* of the secondary disorder was strikingly displayed; and, within the wards of your hospital, it afforded an instructive contrast to the malignant character which the disease too frequently assumed in those who did not enjoy the protecting influence of vaccination.

"In the severe cases, as no scars were apparent on the arms, it is highly probable that vaccination had totally failed, and that the patient or the parents had considered the puncture of the arm as equivalent to perfect vaccination. The most experienced practitioners, however, have frequent occasion to observe that the first insertion of the virus is ineffectual, and that the success of the process can be insured only by unremitting attention. That this may have been the source of fallacy in several of these cases, is rendered the more probable by the fact that, in every instance of small-pox subsequent to vaccination, which has occurred during the present year, the patient had been vaccinated in the country; and it is obvious how much greater is the chance that, under such circumstances, the indispensable inspection of the progress of the vehicle may have been neglected.

"Your physician has had occasion to notice, that the proportion of persons vaccinated at your institution, who are known to have taken small-pox in after-life, is very small. A few cases of the kind have indeed fallen under his observation, but they were all of the mildest kind; and it is gratifying to him to perceive that these, so far from deterring from the practice of vaccination, impressed upon the parents its value, and strengthened their faith in its efficacy. Upon the whole, your physician is inclined to believe that the cases in which regular vaccination fails in imparting either a protecting or a highly-important modifying power, are so few as scarcely to merit notice, and infinitely too rare to affect, in any sensible degree, the beneficial practice of vaccination.

GEORGE GREGORY, M. D.

*Physician to the Small-Pox and Vaccination Hospital,
London, 6th June, 1822.* *at St. Pancras.*

ARSENIC.—Dr. Cooper, President of Columbia College, has found a solution of chromate of potass to be one of the best tests of arsenic. One drop is turned green by the fourth of a grain of arsenic,

by two or three drops of Fowler's mineral solution, or any other arsenite of potass. The arsenious acid attracts oxygen from the chromic, which is converted into green oxide. To exhibit the effect, the doctor gives the following instructions: "Take five watch-glasses; put on one, two or three drops of a (watery) solution of white arsenic; on the second, as much arsenite of potass; on the third, one-fourth of a grain of white arsenic in the substance; on the fourth, two or three drops of solution of corrosive sublimate, either in water or alcohol; in the fifth, two or three drops of a solution of copper. Add to each three or four drops of solution of chromate of potass. In half an hour, a bright, clear, grass-green colour will appear in Nos. 1, 2, 3, unchangeable by ammonia; No. 4 will instantly exhibit an orange precipitate; No. 5 a green, which a drop of ammonia will instantly change to blue." Dr. Cooper, however, does not recommend that this test should be exclusively relied on, but merely that it should be used in conjunction with others, of which the most unequivocal is certainly the actual exhibition of arsenic in a metallic form.

CROUP.—A French Physician states, that he was called to a child slightly afflicted with inflammation of the tonsils. Two days afterwards he saw the child, and, to his great astonishment, found all the most acute symptoms of the croup present. All curative means proved unavailing, and the child died. The Doctor, having before seen a case in which an attack of inflammation of the tonsils, in a child of four years of age, disguised an attack of croup equally fatal, urges the necessity of paying the most scrupulous attention to the state of the organs of respiration, whenever the least change is perceived in the voice of children, although the change may appear to be the result of a different affection.

"Dr. Reddelin, of Wismar, has communicated to the Royal Society of Gottingen, through Professor Blumenbach, the following successful treatment of croup, after the usual remedies had been tried without effect. The patient was a female, aged nineteen, who, on the third day after being seized with the croup, was unable to swallow, had begun to rattle in the throat, and seemed approaching rapidly her dissolution. Dr. Reddelin insinuated, by means of a quill, a mixture of Spanish snuff and marocco into her nostrils, and, after repeating this mixture a second time, it excited sneezing and vomiting: this occasioned the discharge of two long membranous cylinders from the trachea, upon which the rattling immediately ceased, and the patient was rescued from instantaneous suffocation. One of the tubes, when slit open, measured nine French lines in breadth; they were quite elastic, and bore a strong extension without injury to their fibrous texture."

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL TRANSACTIONS.

(Continued from Folio 230).

Swallowing of Clasp Knives.—The sixth article is a long "account of a man, who lived ten years after having swallowed a number of clasp knives, with the appearances on dissection, communicated by Dr. Marcet. In the month of June, 1809, the man (an American sailor, aged twenty-three) swallowed four clasped knives. In the following evening he passed one, but not the first he had swallowed. The next day he passed two, one of which was the first; the fourth did not come away, to his knowledge, and he never felt any

inconvenience from it, if it remained. Six years after this ridiculous experiment, he was induced to swallow six clasped knives, and the following day eight more. The next morning, pain in the stomach and vomiting came on, which rendered medical assistance necessary. He was accordingly removed to the Charlestown Hospital, where, as he expressed himself, "betwixt that period and the 28th of the following month, he was safely delivered of his cargo." About seven months afterwards, he swallowed, in the course of twenty-four hours, eighteen clasped knives, some of which were large. This experiment ultimately terminated his existence. Pain coming on, he applied to a Dr. Lara, who prescribed olive oil, in considerable quantity, at different times. He became easier, but the knives did not pass off. He continued at different periods to part with fragments, by stool and vomiting, for about eighteen months, when he was admitted an in-patient of Guy's Hospital; but his story appearing to Dr. Babington incredible, he was in a few days discharged. In three months afterwards he was re-admitted, and in two months was discharged in an improved state of health. In the following year he was again admitted, under the care of Dr. Curry, and died in about nine months, "miserably emaciated."

When the learned physicians, Drs. Babington and Curry, were led to believe the statement of the patient was not entirely void of truth, (from the reports of Sir Astley Cooper and Mr. Lucas, who had examined the abdomen externally, and from the ferruginous appearance of the fæces), they ordered dilute nitric acid, sulphuric acid, opium, and mucilage of gum arabic, with the view of dissolving the iron, "or in the hopes, at least," says Dr. Marcet, "of blunting the edges." On examining the intestines after death, a back spring and blade of a knife were found so situated, that the dissector, Mr. Travers, was satisfied in his own mind, that their expulsion was impossible, the latter "having *literally* transfixed the colon opposite the left kidney, and projected into the cavity of the abdomen, and the former being stretched across the rectum, with one of its extremities *actually* fixed in the muscular parietes of the pelvis." In the stomach, between thirty and forty fragments, evidently portions of blades, knife-springs, and handles, were found.

This case having occurred thirteen years ago, and the particulars having been published in all the daily and monthly Journals, and being destitute of any practical information, of the smallest utility, we cannot discover any reason for its republication, particularly at a time when such ridiculous exploits are become so common in Europe and America. Dr. Marcet has displayed much ingenuity in extending the subject to twenty-three pages; and this to book-makers is a great desideratum. The Society is bound to make a book half-yearly, and, therefore, for want of good company, welcome trumpery.

The *chemical* practice adopted by Drs. Babington and Curry, viz. of exhibiting the nitric and sulphuric acids to dissolve the iron portions of the knives, was indeed wonderfully scientific. To produce such stimulating salts as the nitrate and the sulphate of iron in a stomach which was in a state of inflammatory excitement, might appear on first reflection to be highly injudicious; but the physicians had the precaution to order *some* mucilage with the acids, no doubt with the view of defending the internal membrane of the stomach and intestines against the action of the salts!! This was indeed a brilliant idea, and, no doubt, had great influence on the minds of the council of eleven, in ordering the narrative to form a part of the *published* transactions of the Society. The *scientific* physicians also ordered opium, which, by producing constipation, would prevent the mineral salts and the fragments of the knives passing off too rapidly!! Why did not they also prescribe a solvent, for the horny covering of the handles? Had the poor fellow persevered in the treatment recommended by Dr. Lara, viz. of taking freely of

olive oil, instead of applying to an hospital, the eighteen knives he last swallowed, might have passed through the intestinal canal with the same facility as the fourteen did in the Charlestown Hospital.

Premature Puberty.—The seventh article is a concise history of premature puberty, by John Flint South, on whom the council of eleven has conferred the title of Esquire.

The subject has been long exhibited as a great natural curiosity in the metropolis, and a description of him has appeared in the medical journals, and in many of the daily papers. We saw him before he was publicly exhibited in London; but some statements by his attendants were so disgusting, and evidently incorrect, that we declined to give any account of him. 'Squire South seems to have had a peep into the interior of the head, for he represents the cerebellum to be of an *enormous* size!! In his opinion, and no doubt of that of the sapient council of eleven, the size of the cerebellum may be ascertained by the degree of prominence of the occipital bone. Neither *thickness* of skull, nor particular form of the head, (which was evident in this instance) are to be taken into consideration!!

Acute Inflammation.—The eighth article contains a scientific account of the products of acute inflammation, by Mr. Thomas Dowler, communicated by Sir Astley Cooper. From the experiments of this gentleman, it appears, that the *inflammatory* crust or coat of blood is not *altered fibrin*, as Mr. Doyeux thought it to be; neither is it coagulable albumen, as supposed by Fourcroy; nor does it consist entirely of coagulable lymph, as Dr. Thomson seems inclined to consider it; but that it is composed of a tissue of fibrin, containing between its fibres a very large proportion of serum. To this article, Dr. Bostock has added an appendix, in which he states, that in 1807, he made some experiments with the buffy coat of inflamed blood, which were attended with the same results as those noticed by Mr. Dowler. In a chemical point of view, such experiments are certainly interesting; but we should like to see some hint, at least, of the light the results throw on the nature, treatment, &c. &c. of acute inflammation.

Aneurism in the Groin.—The ninth article is a case of ungual aneurism, which was cured by applying a ligature to the external iliac artery. The operation was performed by Mr. Edward Salmon, an army surgeon; it contains nothing new or worthy of notice.

Cubebæ.—The tenth article contains Observations on the Use of Cubebæ, or Java Pepper, as a remedy for a specific inflammation of the urethra, from the pen of Mr. Broughton, an eminent surgeon of London. Mr. Broughton employed the powder and tincture of the berries. Among the fifty cases, the greatest part of which were recent,

10	were cured in from	2 to 10 days,
17		from 8 to 14 days,
18		from 15 to 21 days,
1		in 22 days,
1		in 55 days;

And in 3 patients it produced no sensible effects.

Mr. Broughton's report affords good grounds for presuming that the cubebæ pepper, though not a specific, is as worthy of confidence as any of the remedies that were employed anterior to the last revival of its use in this disease. With respect to the *general* use of the remedy, Mr. Broughton agrees with Mr. Jeffrey, and others, that "when it does not seem to act in three or four days, it should be superseded by some other remedy. Mr. Broughton found the remedy most successful in recent cases. The use of cubebæ in this disease has now given way to the *diosma crenata*, or buchu leaves, which are more certain and speedy in subduing it. This article is given in powder from ten to fifteen grains a day. The extract from eight to ten, and the tincture from one to two tea-spoonsful, three times a day.

Partial Palsy.—The eleventh article is a dissertation on Partial Palsy, by Mr. John Shaw, on whom the liberal council of eleven have conferred the title of Esquire.

The learned esquire, with the "important discoveries" made by his brother-in-law, Mr. Charles Bell, on the *functions* of certain nerves, and his own no less important discoveries, has extended his paper to forty-seven pages. The discovery of a *respiratory* nerve in the face, of the paralysis of this nerve producing gutta serena, his remarks on palsy, his sublime flights of fancy and profound reasoning on Charles Bell's division of the nervous system into *simple* and *complex*, are of such immense importance, that we are sorry we have not time to do them justice in our present number. Soporific as the analysis of the first part of the article has already proved, and as the latter will prove, we will endeavour to get through it for our next number. Being now in the twenty-seventh day of the month, we are really afraid to attempt to finish the task for the present Number. We pity the council of eleven if they really did go through it.

Uterine Hæmorrhage.—The twelfth article, is a communication from Dr. Robert Gooch, of "some circumstances in which hæmorrhage may occur after parturition, sufficient to produce alarming symptoms, although the uterus feels contracted to the ordinary degree." The subject was 36 years of age. The labour being "severe and protracted," the doctor employed the forceps. About twenty minutes after delivery, the appearance of the patient alarmed him: she exhibited symptoms of dying. On removing about a pound of coagulum from the uterus, the organ, he says, "shut like a spring;" but the symptoms continued as alarming as ever. The doctor being terribly frightened, sent for the family physician, evidently to get rid of the responsibility of the case, for the physician was ignorant of midwifery!! He, however, previously to his arrival, ventured to administer a dessert spoonful of Hoffman's anodyne liquor, and *fifty* drops of laudanum. The arrival of the family physician and the abatement of the symptoms relieved the doctor of much anxiety; she gradually recovered her strength. But what the family physician prescribed, the doctor has not condescended to state; probably, in his confusion, he forgot to look at the prescription, and the doctor not being a Licentiate of the College of Physicians, the family physician could not consult with him on the best means of preserving the life of his patient, without subjecting himself to a penalty and a severe castigation!! In a case of uterine hæmorrhage, attended with syncope, on what principle, or with what view, did the learned doctor prescribe so large a dose of laudanum? By diminishing the contractile power of the uterus, was it not more likely to increase than lessen the hæmorrhage? After a female was nearly exhausted by a "severe and protracted labour," was the hæmorrhage to be considered of an active or passive nature? As the exhibition of laudanum, even in small doses, has been condemned by Drs. Clarke, Denman, and other eminent Lecturers on Midwifery; in cases of hæmorrhages, after parturition, it was surely incumbent on Dr. Gooch, to have given some reason to the society for deviating from such high authorities. The Hoffman's anodyne, we suspect in this case, obviated the relaxing or debilitating effects of the opium. The doctor, notwithstanding he required the assistance of the family physician in this case, is a lecturer on midwifery!! and what a lecturer does must be judicious. The cause of the hæmorrhage in this instance, we suspect, was the too early separation of the placenta. After a severe and protracted labour, no attempt should be made to separate the placenta till the uterus has had time to recover from its fatigue, which, instead of thirty minutes, will often require some hours. All the cases of hæmorrhage *after* delivery we have met with, were clearly the consequence of officious conduct of nurses in the

extraction of the placenta. The late Princess Charlotte of Wales, we suspect, lost her life in consequence of officiousness.

The remaining nine articles we shall notice in our next number.

DEAFNESS.—Mr. John Harrison Curtis, who styles himself an esquire, a *Fellow* of the Medical Society of London, &c. &c., has made a book of cases, to illustrate his superior treatment of diseases of the ear, both local and constitutional, which he has dedicated to those benevolent characters who have subscribed towards establishing an institution, that the poor afflicted with diseases of the ears may, as well as the rich, receive the benefit of his superior abilities. The author introduces his cases by practical observations, occupying only forty pages; by which it appears, that although no "*class of diseases is more troublesome than those of the ear, or which occasion more inconvenience, no diseases incident to the human frame have received so little attention, or have been subjected so rarely to the investigation of science,*" until he applied his mind to the consideration of them. That the author is a man of science, and deep research, all who have the honour of knowing him, his house, and his furniture, and the Medical Society of London, of which he is a fellow, well know. Such is the reputation of this *scientific* aurist, that he boldly asserts, "there are very few of the higher ranks of society labouring under deafness, or other imperfections of the organ of hearing," who have not done him the *honour* of consulting him, as well as many of the middling ranks; and therefore he modestly observes, like a man of real science, "it is evident that the actual number of deaf persons must have considerably diminished;" and the simple fact, of the deaf of every class resorting to a man of science, instead of an advertising quack, is an incontestible proof that wise people are increasing. As to the Dispensary which the wise and benevolent have established, to enable him to extend the advantage of his discoveries, it has proved highly beneficial, if not to the poor, to this man of science. Notwithstanding the success of his superior treatment of deafness, and his important discoveries of its causes, &c., he confesses that he has not been able to remove the prejudices which have so long existed in *this* country, that diseases of the ear are incurable!!! "If this prejudice," says he, "could be removed, and persons labouring under this defect would, at an *early period* of the malady, apply for relief to a *scientific* aurist, with the same alacrity as for other diseases, there cannot be a doubt but that the greatest number of cases would be cured, by yielding to *proper* treatment."!!

Deafness, this author has discovered to be sometimes symptomatic of affections of the head, the stomach, and other organs. "Every accumulation of blood in the head, at a *certain period of life*, is marked by a slight attack of deafness. It also occurs, as a symptom in nervous and irritable constitutions, particularly in females of a delicate *chlorotic* habit, and is often combined with hysteria, indigestion, and affections of the stomach. How vain then," says he, "would be the attempt to remove these *partial* symptoms of imperfect hearing, without attending to the general health." An aurist, to do justice to all his patients, should be an able physician. This fact, in the opinion of "Squire" Curtis, must be sufficient to convince every *reflecting* mind, that diseases of the ear should form a *distinct* branch of the profession. In our humble opinion it militates against it. Another important discovery this esquire-aurist has made is, "that a knowledge of diseases of the ear has been retarded, by the few opportunities that have been afforded of examining the diseased changes that take place in it, which he attributes to such diseases not being the subject of anatomical investigation. If they have not been anatomically examined by Mr. Curtis, they certainly have been by Saunders, Wright, and others.

The scientific aurist has ascertained that "the most frequent disease of the ear, to which every period of life is *subjected*, is a collection of matter in

the meatus, termed *the puriform discharge*, which, according to its progress, is divided into three stages. The *first* consists of a *simple* discharge of matter, the second is complicated with *fungus*, or *polypi*, and the *third* is, when caries of the bones take place."!!! This disease, he says, "was formerly considered, by *surgeons in general*, as hopeless; but now," he adds, "it is found to yield to *proper* treatment. In consequence of a more complete research, the scientific investigator has ascertained that it is not a *constitutional* disease, but a mere affection of the part; and that active *local* remedies, properly applied, (by a *scientific* aurist) are the certain means of cure!!! Well said, indeed, most learned aurist of deep research and scientific attainments; thou hast, indeed, out-solomon'd the great Liverpool doctor. It is the first time we ever heard of a puriform discharge of the ear being deemed hopeless by surgeons in any period of the world.

If surgeons did so consider it prior to Mr. Curtis's discovery of its *local* nature, and the effects of *active* local remedies, old nurses did not; for we have known it cured by them before Mr. Curtis even thought of "making deep researches into the morbid affections of the ear." The research of this scientific investigator must indeed have been very deep, to have termed the effect of discharge a *primary* malady. Every surgeon must be aware, that a puriform discharge from the ear is the *consequence* of a morbid condition of the internal surface, and that it is the consequence of different morbid actions being frequently the sequel of scarlet-fever, measles, small-pox, &c. To say that a puriform discharge is a *primary* disease, and to divide it into three stages, is stark nonsense. The assertion, that the second stage is complicated with polypi, is equally ridiculous; for, instead of polypi being the progress of the puriform discharge, the discharge is the consequence of polypi: hence this minute observer has evidently mistaken the cause for the effect. The disease, of which a puriform discharge is the consequence, we are satisfied, is generally of a scrofulous nature; indeed, we have met with it only in scrofulous subjects. It is therefore frequently, if not always, constitutional. The aurist's lucky discovery of curing this disease, he says, he has published in some periodical works, "for the *benefit* of the profession"!!! Now this is, we conceive, pushing the puffing art to its utmost extent. Weak solutions of sulphate of zinc, of sulphate of copper, and of acetate of copper, have been employed long before Mr. Curtis, or his father, the eminent physician of Uxbridge, were heard of. Had the learned aurist attended to the effect of checking this discharge in infants, he would have been aware of the necessity of constitutional treatment. Mr. Curtis being a Fellow of the London Medical Society, we hope he did that Society the *honour* of communicating his mode of treatment to them, previously to his publishing it for the *benefit* of the profession at large.

The next species of deafness, in regard to frequency, he has discovered to be that which arises from obstruction of the eustachian tube. He has discovered that women are more subject to this disease than men, and "perhaps," he adds, "it may be extended farther, that there are more females suffer from deafness, in general, than those of the other sex:" probably in consequence of *lingual* exercise. "It is also," says he, "not unworthy of remark, that the same consent *seems* to exist between the *two* ears as between the *two* eyes; for if we *stop* the *hearing* of one ear, we do not hear with the other in the *same perfect state as before*."!! This is indeed a most important discovery, and worthy so great a man as 'Squire Curtis. A characteristic symptom of this deafness, from obstruction in the eustachian tube, he says, is a *sense* of confused noise *heard* by the patient in *his own* ear."!!! The treatment of this species of deafness consists in *inflating* the *tube*, by means of *his* new instrument!!! After he invented this new instrument, he discovered a more simple one had been long before employed by the late Dr. James Sims, which the doctor had employed with considerable success.

The observant aurist, not satisfied with such important discoveries as those we have noticed, continued his investigation for the *benefit* of the profession! and, of course, suffering humanity. During his attendance on the deaf and dumb, this minute observer has ascertained, that "in most cases of deaf and dumb, a *defect* of hearing prevails; and it is this defect which is, for the most part, the *sole* cause of the want of speech."!! Hence to give the dumb an idea of sound, his hearing should be restored!! Most learned Curtis, thou reasonest well. In consequence of this discovery, he "strongly recommended to the Governors of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, an examination of the ears of the deaf and dumb children;" but so stupid were the medical officers of the institution, that they did not duly appreciate the value of his gratuitous advice.

"Although it is clear the actual state of the organ is beyond inspection;" so *peculiar*, says Mr. Curtis, are the affections of the ear, that in cases of *poor* patients, at his *Royal* dispensary, when he had *entirely* despaired of affording relief, he has often, by perseverance, succeeded; one instance of which, it may be proper to notice:—An *old woman*, who had been fifty years deaf, applied to him at the dispensary: "from her great age, and *other* circumstances, he considered the case hopeless." The poor woman having heard of his great skill and judgment, earnestly importuned him to do something for her. The humane gentleman "immediately commenced a *very active* treatment," the result of which "astonished him and the patient, for in a short time she could hear *with ease*."

To remove the "prejudices of the ignorant, of the incurability of diseases of the ear," Mr. Curtis has taken the trouble to give no less than 68 cases of deafness which have been successfully treated by him:—many of which are taken from a former work!! The first of the list, a Mrs. W. he says, applied to him, "under a violent inflammation of both ears, attended with much pain and fever: her hearing was not much affected, although she could not hear sounds distinctly!! After abstraction of blood, applying warm fomentations, and administering an aperient medicine, the *symptoms* abated." Now, no one but a scientific aurist, would pronounce this to have been a case of deafness. Among the patients he has cured, is a Dr. B.—whom he represents to be "a physician of *some* eminence."!! Mr. Curtis soon discovered that the "odd noises in his head, attended with deafness," arose from a disordered stomach; and that the learned physician was hypochondriacal!—Eminent as the physician was, he agreed to adopt the medical treatment of Mr. Curtis, even after being assured by him, that the affection of the ears, "and the *odd noises* he heard in his head," depended *solely* on the state of his stomach!! The learned aurist *prescribed* stomachic and stronger nervines than the eminent physician had taken, which succeeded in restoring him to health. He also advised him to "take *constant* exercise on horseback, instead of riding in a carriage"!! Was Dr. Bree the physician of some eminence, who condescended to place himself under the medical care of Mr. Curtis, or the eminent Dr. Bankhead, whom we have noticed in our present Number? As some practitioners, acquainted with the physicians of London, may entertain some doubt of this being a genuine case, we shall be obliged to any person who will favour us with the name of the gentleman. In the long list of cases which the learned author has selected, we cannot discover one which would do credit to any old woman. Not one in which any new mode of treatment was adopted. The book affords a good advertisement, and some "scientific Reviewers" have insulted their readers by recommending it to their notice. The extracts from certain Reviews, which Mr. Curtis has given in his public advertisements, will enable medical men to form a just estimate of those publications. Mr. Curtis's Royal Dispensary, for the diseases of the ear, we shall notice in an early Number.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 82.

To OCTOBER 1, 1822.

VOL. VII.

THE LATE DR. CHARLES GOWER.

THIS physician was the son of the late Doctor Foote Gower, the well known historian of the county palatine of Chester, who was descended from a long line in succession of physicians. The Doctor was a native of Chelmsford, a place lately distinguished for physicians of chemical and metaphysical knowledge. After receiving the common routine classical education of the Charter-house school, under the late Dr. Samuel Beardmore, Master Charles was sent to Oxford to be enrolled in Oriel College, where, after taking the minor degrees, he selected that of M. D. as most likely to enable him to display his classical acquirements *advantageously* among his connexion in town. This he obtained, according to the old established custom of this University, without being subjected to the *inconvenience* of an examination, touching his medical acquirements. Although the Doctor was furnished with so imposing a testimonial of his being most profoundly learned in medicine, authorizing him to exercise his *professional* abilities in any part of his Majesty's dominions, for the benefit of his liege subjects, highly to his credit, he became a physician's pupil at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to obtain a *practical* knowledge of the science of medicine, of which he had read something in the works of Hippocrates and Galen, during his residence in Oxford. Having added to his stock of classic lore, as much practical knowledge of modern medicine as he could collect in one year at this Hospital, he became a Fellow of the College of Physicians, and boldly commenced the fee trade. The Doctor soon found, that to make a practice adequate to the support of the establishment of an *Oxford* physician, and the dignity of a Fellow of the College, something more than a *practical* knowledge of medicine was necessary. The interior of the head may be well furnished at Oxford and a London hospital, but the medical phiz, the bow, and the art of pleasing, so necessary to ensure success in this enlightened age, were only to be obtained at Edinburgh. Sooner than submit to be drilled by a dancing-master, or to imitate the examples of some of his cotemporaries, he gave up the practice of medicine, and embarked with a few friends in a mercantile concern, in which he employed the whole of the property his father had left him, amounting to about fifteen thousand pounds. Being now a proud merchant of the city of London, he pretended to hold in great contempt the practice of medicine, as conducted by a certain set of high bred physicians of the metropolis, whose success depended on pleasing a set of old women or ladies' maids. He would now often contend that medicine had not advanced since the time of Hippocrates, and lament that his system was not generally adopted. The opinions entertained by physicians, with regard to the nature and

treatment of diseases, were so diametrically opposite, that he thought it was of no consequence by whom the art was practised. That physicians studied only the means of giving publicity to their names, and of worming themselves into the connexion of their brethren, to effect which many have descended to meannesses which the lowest mechanic would despise. The mercantile speculation having failed, and the Doctor having lost the whole of his property in it, he was induced by the earnest persuasion of his friends to try his luck once more in the *guinea* trade. The Doctor accordingly assumed the dignity and consequence of a high bred physician. He entered cordially into the popish spirit of the College; the public had nothing to do with medicine, but to take it; that no person was so well qualified to prescribe it as a learned graduate of an English university; and that the attempts to acquaint the public with the state of medical knowledge, or to enable invalids to form an opinion of the qualifications of certain physicians, was a species of quackery which should be opposed by every member of the College; and as to the medical graduates of the Scotch universities, who pretended to have a knowledge of medicine, they should be made to feel their inferiority. The Doctor, when in society, talked much, and often, in commendation of medicine, and endeavoured to persuade his friends that he was better acquainted with the *modus operandi* of remedies and the nature of diseases than his brethren. This superior knowledge, he pretended, arose from collecting facts, and that by proceeding on them, he avoided the wild theories and medical fashions of the time, to which some hundred lives were daily sacrificed. As to physicians in general, with all their boasted knowledge of medicine, they were not acquainted with more than *two* specifics (in consequence of their criminal inattention to the effects of medicine), viz. mercury for syphilis, and sulphur for the itch, and these, he observed, sometimes fail; but the Doctor having *minutely* watched the operations of different remedies, had discovered many specifics, which, however, he never condescended to communicate to the College. The Doctor's plan, plausible as it was, did not succeed to the extent of his expectation. His immediate friends recollected the remarks he had so often made on the inefficacy and trade of medicine, when he was engaged in another pursuit, and some of them entertaining the unfortunate idea, once a merchant always a merchant, he was not able to establish a high degree of reputation from the employment of his numerous specifics. He had, however, the good fortune to obtain the appointment of physician to the Middlesex Hospital, the Refuge for the Destitute, and the Clergy Orphan Charity, beyond which the fortunate or unfortunate results of his practice did not extend. A short period previously to his dissolution, which suddenly occurred about three months ago in an hotel, he authorized the publication of a three shilling and sixpenny book, under the sanction of his name, entitled "*Auxiliaries to Medicine.*" This work is divided into four tracts—the first contains an account of the sudatory, with remarks on its efficacy in producing perspiration, and in curing a variety of diseases. This apparatus has lately been much improved, and the mode of employing it simplified by the scientific Mr. La Beume, who has published some valuable observations on the practice. The second tract is a description of an instrument to which

the author has given the *appropriate* name of *pulsator*, because it possesses the power of *stimulating* and *supporting* enfeebled or impaired parts of the human body, by *mechanically* propelling the *general* mass of fluids in a state of languid circulation! The third is a description of an instrument which the author denominates an *illuminator*. The use of this great discovery is to enable a surgeon to inspect the *mouth* and *fauces* of a patient suffering under severe diseases of those parts, by illuminating them!! A discovery of an instrument capable of illuminating the intellects, would have proved far more creditable to him, and useful to his *legitimate* brethren. The last essay embraces an account of an easy chair, to which the author has given the *appropriate* name of "*the valetudinarian*." "This," he says, "is expressly adapted for those who are confined to bed by age, accident, or disease." He adds, "that, like the fashionable and politic physician, it can be changed at will, and re-formed into as many shapes as the *wants* of man require."!!! If Dr. Gower was really the author of this work, it is evident he mistook his forte, when he embarked either as a regular physician, or as a merchant. As a nostrum-monger he would have been more successful in acquiring wealth.

We have introduced this short biographical sketch of Dr. Gower, merely on account of shewing the real opinion of medicine, a Fellow of the College of Physicians entertained, when he no longer looked to it as a source of emolument.

INFLAMMATION.—Dr. Robert Page, of Dundalk, has found an infusion of tobacco, administered clysterwise, to prove a powerful auxiliary to the common routine treatment. In a case of inflammation of the lungs, the difficulty of breathing, &c. continuing after an abstraction of 96 ounces of blood at five bleedings, and the operation of an aperient medicine, &c. &c. the Doctor ordered a clyster of an infusion of tobacco (made by infusing 35 grains of dried tobacco in 12 ounces of boiling water for half an hour) to be exhibited. She was almost immediately sick after it; but the relief she experienced was instantaneous, and without any further medical treatment, she was perfectly well in three days. The Doctor has also found the tobacco clyster equally beneficial in two cases of inflammation of the tonsils, in both of which it occasioned sickness. It also produced several offensive motions.

We are inclined to believe that the beneficial operation of the tobacco clyster arose from its nauseating effects on the stomach, and that after copious bleeding, blister, and purging, an emetic dose of ipecacuanha powder or tartarized antimony, would have proved equally beneficial. The nauseating effect of an infusion of tobacco injected up the rectum, is so very distressing, that few medical men who have witnessed it, would have recourse to the remedy in simple cases of inflammation. In violent paroxysms of asthma and in tetanus, it has been employed with great success, particularly in the former; but asthmatic patients have declared that they would sooner have a paroxysm for some hours than experience for a few minutes the distressing nausea and head-ache which followed it.

WORMS.—An intelligent correspondent informs us, that by persevering for some months in the use of the following electuary, he had succeeded in curing himself of that most annoying disease, termed "*Ascarides*."

Take of Flowers of Sulphur ;

Peruvian Bark in powder, of each half an ounce ;

Carbonate of Iron, two drachms ;

Jalap powder, one drachm ;

Conserve of Wormwood, two ounces ;

Syrup of Buckthorn, a sufficient quantity to form an electuary.

He increased the dose from one to three teaspoonsful with a wineglassful of lime water once or twice a-day, so as to produce two evacuations daily, or three in the course of two days. He states, that he had been "terribly annoyed" by the disease upwards of twenty years, and that within the last ten years he consulted the most eminent physicians of London, from whose advice he had received only a slight temporary benefit.

Many German physicians have lately found mare's milk to succeed in expelling the tape-worm. Dr. Kortum, of Italberg, has lately published the following case in Hufeland's Journal. A lady, between 30 and 40 years of age, had long suffered from tape-worm, and several attempts to destroy it had failed, principally in consequence of an invincible dislike to any thing in the form of medicine. Having heard of several cures effected by mare's milk, she resolved to give it a trial. The following autumn she drank two teacupsful in an evening. Soon afterwards violent griping pains took place in the bowels, and continued very severe during the night. In the following morning she took another cupful, which was followed by severe pains. In a few days a long portion of tape-worm was discharged, and, in a short time afterwards, the remainder. "This peculiar effect of mare's milk," observes Dr. Kortum, "is very remarkable, as that of the cow seems to be agreeable to the worm, and therefore uniformly quiets the symptoms." An Italian physician, of great eminence, informs us, that he had found the "*Essentia de Cedra*" (Essence of Bergamot) in the dose of one or two drachms (mixed with honey) more efficacious in destroying the tape, and also the long round worm, than the oil of turpentine or naphtha. Dr. Gibney, of Cheltenham, observes, that the oil of turpentine is almost a specific in every species of worms, and its failure in the practice of many physicians, he attributes to the improper exhibition of it. When the dose is not sufficiently large, it affects the kidneys and skin, and produces no effect on the worm or intestinal canal. The Doctor prescribes one or two drachms at intervals for children of three years of age, and six drachms for older children, and more for adults. He directs it to be taken when the stomach is most empty, and enjoins strict abstinence during its use. He commences with a good dose early in the morning, and repeats it every hour for three or four hours, as circumstances may indicate. He generally combines it with mucilage of gum arabic, simple cinnamon water and syrup, and in case it should not operate on the bowels as an aperient, he orders a dose of castor oil. This treatment he renews about every four or five days for some time after the evacuation of worms, or until the fæces become healthy. He relates seven cases of worms, to illustrate the beneficial effects of his mode of treatment. All the patients had dark slimy offensive stools, sometimes the long round worm and sometimes the short worm were voided after one or two doses. He has added a case of a young woman, much reduced, by vomiting after every meal, who was cured by two doses of oil of turpentine. The Doctor's report of the be-

neficial effects of the oil of turpentine, will, we hope, induce Dr. Copeland to proceed with his new theories, and prosecute his experiments with this active article. The exhibition of so powerful a stimulus, in cases of vomiting, or of worms in children, is too bold a practice for us to recommend to our non-medical readers. The basilic nut, noticed in a late number as a remedy for worms, is perfectly safe, and, we have no hesitation in saying, more efficacious in destroying the long round worm and the small worms which occupy the rectum, than the oil of turpentine, or any other vermifuge.

CONCUSSION OF THE BRAIN.—Mr. James Nivison has published a case of concussion of the brain, in which copious bleeding proved so beneficial as to lead him to conclude that abstraction of blood must be proper in *all* cases of concussion of the brain, and that the advice of many eminent surgeons to administer stimulants, must, of course, be improper. The subject was a young man. The side of the head was much contused, and the lower jaw fractured. When Mr. N. arrived to his assistance, he found the pulse was *feeble* and *intermitting*, the pupils of the eyes *contracted*; the eye, on the opposite side, directed to the nose. The stupor, which was considerable, diminished as the blood flowed. Purgative medicines were prescribed, and a cold lotion applied to the injured parts.

Concussion of the brain, with considerable external contusion and fracture of the lower jaw, is very different to simple concussion of the brain, and requires a different constitutional treatment. In the former case, after bleeding, the external mischief, in our opinion, was likely to act in favour of the injury of the brain, and rendered bleeding necessary.

VOMITING DURING PREGNANCY.—Dr. Scellier extols the following mixture, as a remedy for nausea and vomiting, during the period of pregnancy.

Take of Lettuce Water, 4 ounces;
Gum Arabic, 1 scruple;
Syrup of White Poppies,
Do. of Marshmallow Root, of each 2 ounces;
Prussic Acid, 4 drops.—Mix.

A tablespoonful to be taken every half hour when the vomiting is present. If the lettuce water cannot be obtained, 8 grains of the inspissated white juice (*lactuarium*), dissolved in 4 ounces of water, may be substituted for it.

The saline mixture, in a state of effervescence, with a pill of one or two grains of *lactuarium* is preferable to the above composition. When the matter brought up is acid, a weak solution of the carbonate of soda may be substituted for the saline mixture. In a former number we have noticed the good effects of a camphorated plaster, or a piece of brown paper over the region of the stomach, the latter of which excites more irritation in the skin than the former.

SCIRRHOUS TUMOUR.—Dr. Fallot has published the following case of an enlargement of the gland of the right breast (considered by himself a scirrhus), which he cured by frequent abstraction of blood by means of leeches. A fine healthy girl, at the age of fifteen, discovered a hard tumour, of the size of a peach stone, on the upper external part of the right breast. After becoming as large as an apple, it be-

came stationary. The lady entered the matrimonial state, and sixteen days after delivery of her first child, the tumour suppurated. The tumour now again enlarged, and in a short time became stationary. When she arrived at the age of twenty, it was attended with much pain. The abstraction of blood, by twelve leeches, allayed the shooting pains; but the tumour remained undiminished. Some months afterwards, the pains returning, a greater number of leeches were applied, and the abstraction of blood being much more considerable than on the former occasion, the size of the tumour was considerably diminished, the pains entirely abated, but general debility followed. It continued to decrease, and in the course of six weeks it disappeared. This was evidently a scrofulous tumour, and not a true scirrhous. To talk of dissipating a *scirrhous* tumour, which had suppurated, by abstracting blood from the part, betrays a considerable deficiency of practical knowledge.

Sir Astley Cooper has lately recommended the following application for dispersing indolent tumours of the breast, particularly in young women.

Take of Spermaceti Ointment, one ounce,

Extract of Deadly Nightshade, two drachms.—To be well mixed.

We have lately met with a case of indolent tumour, in the dispersion of which the constant application of the ointment of the deadly nightshade, of the New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia, succeeded in a few weeks. This ointment is unquestionably preferable in such cases to that recommended by Sir Astley Cooper. The abstraction of blood by means of leeches, in cases of indolent enlargements of the mammary glands, was a favourite practice with the late Doctor Cheston of Gloucester, Mr. Allard of Bristol, and Mr. Cam of Hereford, and no doubt, would prove, in many cases attended with inflammatory excitement, a powerful auxiliary to the ointment of the deadly nightshade. The mercurial ointment made with the deadly nightshade ointment instead of hog's-lard, would succeed better than the simple ointment. A German surgeon recommends an ointment of the iodate of mercury as a topical application for indolent tumours, and from our experience with the iodine ointment, we are disposed to think very favourably of the composition, in cases of scrofulous and even scirrhous tumours. The iodine having a great attraction for quicksilver, facilitates its division in lard by tritature.

STIFF KNEE JOINT.—M. Honoré has communicated to the profession, a case of a stiff knee joint, from adhesion (anhylosis), which was cured by a fall, i. e. the adhered ends of the bones were separated, and the motion of the joint was afterwards preserved. Mr. Summers, of Montague-street, who has been more successful in separating such adhesions than any surgeon in Europe, by cautious perseverance, has experienced no difficulty in detaching the ends of the bones; but the complete cure is always retarded by the contraction of muscles, to overcome which, the means of distention must be cautiously, and long continued. We have seen cases of anhylosed joints of long standing, which were completely cured by Mr. Summers, after having been declared by the leading hospital surgeons of London incurable. Mr. Summers's plan of treatment is a great improvement on that recommended by the late Mr. Hunter. He not only completely destroys

the adhesion, but by gradual extension and friction elongates the muscles, and brings them under the influence of the mind. The operation of the mind of a patient on the contracted muscles, no doubt, contributes greatly to the success of his local treatment. The sudden separation of the bones of an ankylosed joint by force, as in the case noticed by M. Honoré, is more likely to endanger a limb than to "cure an ankylosed joint." The contracted muscles could not be suddenly elongated by the accident without laceration, and the surface of the ends of the bones so separated must necessarily be rough. When the ends are detached by gradual means, a joint may become complete, and synovial fluid secreted. Surgeons who have had an opportunity of examining the kind of joint which nature forms between the fractured ends of a bone, when they do not unite, will allow, that although a joint be ankylosed, it may be, by cautious perseverance, nearly, if not entirely, restored to its former state. The practice of Mr. Sumners has also proved equally successful in wry neck and distortions of the spine.

EPILEPSY.—The opinions of medical men with respect to the nature and treatment of this disease being divided, Dr. Shearman has been encouraged to volunteer some observations on it. Profound reflection, minute observation, and extensive reading of the works of the ancients and moderns of "great eminence and enlarged experience," have convinced him that epilepsy often owes its *origin* to a *deficiency of nervous energy, or irregular distribution of it* independent of *vascular excitement* as its cause, and uninfluenced *primarily* by the state of the circulation. The profoundly learned Doctor dares to differ in opinion with Dr. Prichard, although an *able and intelligent* reviewer has declared his work to be, "unquestionably, the best in the *English* language on the subject of epileptic disorders, and that a preternatural influx of the blood into the vessels of the brain, or an unusual fulness in *some parts of the vascular system* of that organ, is the occasion of epilepsy." The Doctor, of course, fancies himself to be not only a more able man than the able and intelligent reviewer of Dr. Prichard's work, but than Dr. Prichard himself; and that the Doctor is a diffident man, is clear, from his having taken the *humble* office of criticizing medical works for the Physical Journal, after having studied medicine for the *long* period of *two* years!! If epilepsy owes its *origin* to a *deficiency* of nervous energy, to what does the deficiency owe its origin! Some *practitioners* who have not only studied medicine, but have had the advantage of long experience, have attributed epilepsy to an effort of nature to relieve the brain of an accumulation of nervous fluid, and to an increase instead of diminution of nervous energy!!! The violent action of the muscular system during a fit of epilepsy, certainly does not favour the theory of *deficiency* of nervous energy.

The *observant and experienced* Doctor does not approve of a common expression in modern writings, of "morbid action." "It is," says he, "frequently met with in the medical writings of the present day; but it is so vaguely used, that *I* have not yet been able to affix any *precise idea* to the term." The same remarks, he observes, are applicable to some other terms in modern use, as "taking on an action; setting up an action, &c. &c." The Doctor, however, frequently speaks of nervous energy, afflux of nervous fluid, and the importance of the

nervous system in the animal economy!!! If the learned Doctor were acquainted with the principles of surgery, he would not have been at a loss for the precise meaning of the terms of morbid or healthy actions. In some future communication, we hope the learned Doctor will tell his readers what he knows of the nervous fluid, and of the animal economy; for, to us it appears, the expressions of morbid action, taking on an action, &c. are more expressive and proper than those employed by himself, which are absurd in the extreme, for the existence of such a fluid as *nervous*, is by no means clear; and as to the "animal economy," where is the man of science who would boast of a knowledge of it? "At the present day," says the Doctor, "the *cure* of epilepsy is principally confined to *two* medicines, both of which are reported to have proved *occasionally* successful."

The nitrate of silver has been long abandoned by physicians of experience, and as to the spirit of turpentine, we believe it has only been administered in cases where worms, and especially the tape, have been supposed to exist in the intestinal canal. So far from those medicines being the *only* two that are employed by practitioners, we assert, without the fear of being contradicted by a practitioner of eminence, that the preparations of zinc, vegetable anodynes and tonics, and galvanism, are more frequently employed than either of them. Indeed, men of experience and observation, who disapprove of tampering with human life, chiefly attend to the general health of epileptic patients, supposing that the course of the disease will be shortened by keeping the system in a healthy state, *i. e.* attending to the digestive organs, the state of the bowels and the sanguiferous system, checking a determination of blood to the head, and engaging the mind in some pursuit agreeable to the patient. "The medicine," says the Doctor, "which, *in my hands*, has more frequently succeeded than any other in *removing* epilepsy, is the elutricated oxyd of tin, given in the dose of from two scruples to a drachm, night and morning, for about four days; at the end of that time giving a purgative, and again resuming the use of the medicine or not, according to its effects upon the system, or its apparent power over the disease."—The preparations of tin had a fair trial forty years ago in Edinburgh and London, but the results did not support the character some practitioners gave them, for specific effects in the cure of epilepsy. The learned Doctor Shearman himself warmly recommended the elutricated oxyd of tin some years ago, but the profession neglected it, although he stood on the high ground of a Reviewer in the pay of Sir Richard Phillips. We hope the Doctor, in his next communication, will also state on what authority he styles himself a *member* of the Royal College of Physicians. He well knows that Licenciates are not *members* of the College, and that they are, in fact, only permissives, *i. e.* authorized by the College to practise in common cases of diseases as long as they behave well. A man of real science, we conceive, would not assume a title to which he has no just claim; men of scientific pursuits despise false or assumed titles.

FEVER DIET.—Dr. Sutton, of Greenwich, in a late communication to Dr. Copland, observes, "Circumstances have occurred, in my public practice, which, by occasioning a necessary resort to milk, has entirely convinced me, that milk is not only an *innocent* but a *useful* and *excellent* diet in fevers; nay more, that where no antipathy prevails, it is the food, of all others, that deserves the greatest preference." During a long

course of extensive practice the Doctor has not met with one instance of its disagreeing with a patient, and no occurrence to induce him to regret its use. The numerous partially nutritive foods of the vegetable kind offered to the sick, such as Tapioca, Sago, Arrow Root, the Doctor observes, "are seldom relished long; of the animal kind, the different broths and jellies are soon loathed, and they are often recommended in a form insipid to the taste, and differing materially from such as are placed on our tables." But milk, the Doctor has found to need no change, and, as far as his experience goes, which, he says, is not *inconsiderable*, it is generally grateful. He found it to sit lightly on the stomach, and not to disturb the bowels. Some practitioners have objected to the use of milk, because, when received into the stomach, it is decomposed by the gastric juice, or a prevailing acid. This fact the Doctor admits; "but," says he, "it is equally clear, that milk is the food offered by nature to animals in their infantile state, when their stomachs have not acquired much vigour, and thence, it may be inferred to be of easy digestion, whatever may be the process it may go through in the stomach."

One great inducement, to order a milk diet for his fever patients, was the satisfaction of being assured, that they would always have by them a nutritive diet; whereas, says he, had I trusted to the cookery of broth by ignorant nurses, or the greasy ill-conducted preparations from the kitchen of a general hospital, my patients would generally have little nutriment offered, which could induce them to take food. The Doctor states his opinion, that there are very few cases, where a bland nutritive fluid food, if the patients can take any, is improper, and of such food extensive experience warrants him to assert that milk diet ought to have the preference. Milk, proceeds the Doctor, has many advantages in other respects, over other food offered to the sick. It needs no preparation; it is easily procured; and the time taken up by the nurse in the cookery of various, and often unpalatable, and ill prepared slops, (sometimes in the sick room, the air of which, on that account, is more heated than proper, or impregnated with steam) may be better employed in attending to the patient. For the poor, milk is more readily and cheaply procured than any other, and would save the time spent in preparing other articles of diet, which can be ill-spared in a poor family. What a pity, then, says he, it is, that a food of such qualities should have been wholly withheld from the feverish lip, or very sparingly allowed, owing to the sole force of ungrounded prejudice! I have, says the Doctor, twice myself, when struggling against the violence of contagious fever, been sustained almost wholly by milk, and more gratefully than by any other nutriment that could be offered! Milk, when cold, the Doctor has found to allay thirst during the exacerbation of fever, and, as he has himself experienced, will tend to relieve feverish thirst, full as well as any other cold fluid, at the same time it conveys nourishment to support the strength of the patient through the subsequent stages of the disease!!

The objection to cow's milk, as an article of diet, during the inflammatory stage of fever, viz. the strong curd which is formed from it in the stomach, is, we conceive, well founded; for in children and in adults we have known such curd to occasion inflammatory fever. A few months ago a young man brought up by vomiting a lump of whey-form

curd, which had been in his stomach five days, and had occasioned a high degree of fever. Whey, in some places in Gloucester and Worcestershire, is a common beverage in cases of fever, and we conceive preferable to milk. If the compound barley water, or decoction of pearl barley and liquorice root, or any vegetable macilage, with a proportion of water, be added to milk, the curd formed in the stomach is much less solid than that which is separated from cow's milk alone, and of course is much more easy of digestion, and such combination in typhus fever may prove very beneficial. The observation made by Dr. Sutton, that *milk* is the food offered by nature to an *infantile* state, cannot apply to the use of *cow's* milk during fever, for it differs much in its combination from human milk. The milk of a well fed cow is much too heavy for the human stomach, and, unless diluted, generally disagrees with dyspeptic patients. The London dealers in the article are so considerate as to save their customers the trouble of diluting it.

SUSPENDED ANIMATION, &c.—SIRS, Plagiarism, or something nearly allied to it, is not new in this age of science. In reading the last number of the London Medical and Physical Journal, I met with a modest instance of this species of borrowing, too flagrant to be concealed even by a thick Bush. The solution of a practical, more than theoretical therapeutic problem, proposed by the late Dr. James Currey, who had so zealously devoted himself to the improvement of the science of reanimation, and to which I had occasion to call again the attention of the Medical Profession, and the co-operation of skilful artists three years ago, in proposing and discussing a new project for restoring people from a state of suspended animation, and to the last improvement of the solution of which I could lately take a part, when Dr. Reece and those ingenious surgeons, Mr. Jukes and Mr. Scott, had made the firm and steady intermediate reply, either by principle, or by mechanism and zeal of application, is now in danger of being suddenly stolen from us by Surgeon Bush of Frome, as will appear by the following extracts from his communication.

"The common occurrence, says Mr. Bush, of death from opium, either when taken by accident or design, shows that we have hitherto not been acquainted with any certain means of ejecting it from the stomach, or of counteracting its effect, I have constructed an instrument," the difficulty of which, by-the-by, was felt by the first artists of the metropolis; and of which, even now, the first maker in London, (Mr. Gill of Warwick place, Bedford row), after repeated trials does not speak of being thoroughly perfect—but perhaps at Frome, by a *bushy head*, mechanism has been brought to greater perfection than in London, *"that might perhaps properly enough be called the gastric exhauster,"* the constructor of the instrument seems to have really been an exhauster of the labours of others; but considering the powers of the constructed instrument, so analogous to those of the common syringe, it might be better denominated the *gastric syringe*. In fact, it is not only for taking away from the stomach, but for conveying to it, and when applied for emptying it, must begin, in the generality of cases, by forcing into it a liquid: *"it is not meant to supersede the use of emetics and other medicines; though I am of opinion it may, in many cases, render their use less necessary than formerly,"* certainly, and particularly where the swallowing power is lost, or the power of the emetics very much dimi-

nished, as in cases of an overdose of opium, &c. &c. *"The instrument consists of a common syringe."* Should Mr. Bush have received exact information of the daily improvements of the instrument, he would not have said a common syringe, for there are parts which do not belong to common syringes—*with a flexible tube fitted to it, of length sufficient to allow one end to enter the stomach*—not only to enter the stomach, but to advance to the very bottom of the cavity: *"it may be formed of leather;"* certainly, if the intention be to convey besides fluids, gaseous, or vaporous substances immediately to the stomach, as I first proposed for cases of suspended animation, but not at all, if the object be to empty the stomach. The best sewed leather tubes are not sufficiently air-tight for this purpose. They may aspire air for a long time, but a liquid will soon weaken the sutures; *"or of the same materials of the elastic flexible bougie. The same syringe should have these tubes of different sizes, to suit the various subjects who might require their use. The ordinary circumference of it would be from an inch to an inch and a half."* An inch and a half, with Mr. Bush's permission, would be not an ordinary, but rather an extraordinary circumference. It is true that knives have been swallowed; it is true that jugglers have pushed blunt sabres far enough through the gullet, without any immediate mischief; but when the purpose may be obtained with tubes of an inch in circumference to the utmost in subjects of the greatest size, why increase the troubles of the artist, the probability of being degraded in the instrument, and the uneasiness of the introduction in persons, yet sensible, besides the greater expenses of construction? The only case in which I would allow an inch and a half circumference, should be when the instrument ought to be employed as exhauster of a great mass of substances, soft, or at least half digested, and more mechanically than chemically soluble in water, in persons falling into a state of asphyxy not long after a great dinner. Mr. Gill has received orders for six tubes of such dimension from Dublin, intended for that purpose. I have given him advice to smooth the extremity destined to the stomach, without shortening too much the aperture of the orifice; because, in such cases, the difficulty of diluting, with sufficient quantity of water, the contents of the overloaded stomach, and the facility of their adhering to and stopping smaller holes, might probably render the aspiring action of the instrument fruitless. *"The point destined to enter the stomach should be smooth, and furnished with holes like the catheter: these holes should be four or six in number, and as large as the tube will admit of."* Mr. Gill believes that it would be better, in imitation of what I had done before in leather tubes, to join an hollow ball or cylinder of ivory or silver to this point. They are more steady to open the way, and they may better resist any chemical action of any poisonous fluids. The holes will be there more easily made, and will remain the same after polishing, washing, and drying the instrument. Besides, the operator by their greater resistance, may better perceive their entrance, and their situation in the stomach, by passing the hand over the epigastric region. *"By the attention to this part of its construction, even the more solid as well as the fluid contents of the stomach will be brought from it, when the piston is made to act."* Even the more solid contents, suppose knives, spoons, &c.!

"The syringe and the tube should not be permanently fixed!" On the

contrary, they ought to be permanently fixed in the course of the operation; and this is one of the mechanical improvements of Mr. Gill. He may easily charge the syringe with water, force it into the stomach, withdraw it again from its cavity, and discharge the filled syringe at his will, without dividing the apparatus, with the only aid of two stop-cocks; "*but so constructed that they can be put together and separated instantaneously,*" how instantaneously? "*and a flexible rod of whalebone should accompany the tube, to give firmness to it in entering the stomach.*" The whalebone is not necessary at all, a well-constructed tube does not want any auxiliary power from internal supports; "*but should be withdrawn before the syringe is fixed.*" Of course! how to withdraw it afterwards? Why such a loss of time? "*I will add a few remarks on the mode of using this instrument. If called to a person who had swallowed opium,*"—Why only opium? The title says opium and other poisons. By-the-by, I believe Mr. Bush's intention was to say laudanum; but besides the necessary introduction of some vinegar at first, in both cases, opium not being in a liquid state, would require the further operation of washing the stomach, as will be seen in the following lines: "*I would introduce the tube of the exhauster into the stomach: having half-filled the syringe with warm water,*" of what degree? "*which should at least be capable of containing a pint.*" There is no necessity for such a measure. Mr. Gill's syringe does not contain a pint; it is lighter, and contains about half a pint; but it may be charged and recharged successively without any separation of pieces, and without loss of time. But why does Mr. Bush half-fill his syringe? Why such a new source in his favourite method of losing time? And why not take the only benefit afforded by his pint apparatus? "*I would fix it to the tube, and, in the most gentle manner, force it into the stomach; then, with the same caution, by drawing back the piston, fill the syringe with the contents of the stomach, and by separating the syringe from the tube,*"—Mr. Gill would say, and by turning, as necessary, the stop-cocks almost instantaneously—"discharge it. *I would then fill the syringe partially, as before.*" Again, why partially? "*and repeat the process above described, and so again and again till the water was returned unmixed with the poison. The patient might be in the sitting position on the introduction of the tube, but lying on the left side might be a better one, when the injection and exhaustion is to be performed. The introduction of the water would seem a necessary precaution, to prevent ill effects from the action of the exhauster on a comparatively empty stomach.*" I do not believe the introduction of water necessary for an object which does not exist. The stomach has nothing to fear from the small holes of the end of the tube. It is the poison which requires water to dilute it, and the very suction supposes materials more copious than ingested poison, and if not rigorously its chemical solution, at least as much as possible its mechanical one. Mr. Gill has even wisely advised to force and aspire repeatedly the same water, to dislodge any part of swallowed poison, particularly when not fluid, or not much soluble, from the folds of the stomach; and I should believe the moving up and down all along the stomach the perforated extremity of the tube would even answer the purpose better by applying the shocks of the injected fluid to any part of the viscus. "*This opera-*

tion, if conducted with the least address, might be commenced and finished in three minutes," not a second, more or less, "and all the danger from the retention of the poison in the stomach which takes place, when emetics are relied on, avoided." Here Mr. Bush is right; but if his apparatus could act, we do not know when and where, in three minutes, with a heavy and broken mechanism, we might infer from his *imaginary calculation*, that our instrument would be capable of performing the same in one minute. This preamble is followed by a case, a *fatal* case, but fortunately *the only one* the author *ever witnessed* in his long experience of one case of poisoning by opium. I did expect naturally to hear something, on this occasion, of Mr. Bush's flexible tube and common syringe; but, to my great surprise, they are not even mentioned. The author was convinced by this case, of the necessity of the apparatus, (but every medical man must have been convinced of it long since, without the occurrence of more fatal cases) and, very probably, he concluded, by the possibility of resolving the problem, I would not say from the ancient veterinary use of introducing purgative balls with leather-tubes into the horses' stomach through their easily accessible gullets; I would not say from Coleman's metallic spiral wires, formed into a tube, and covered with varnished leather, which, by-the-by, could not go beyond half the way; I would not say from the gum elastic ones, fifteen and even eighteen inches long, recommended by some writers, which would answer the purpose only in children; I would not say from the recommendation of some more adequate tubes for the purpose by the late Dr. James Currey, in his work on Suspended Animation, when, as he says, *the power of swallowing and vomiting might be suspended*, and from his delicate, although perhaps too much complicated syringe to be annexed to them; I would not say from my discussions on the subject with the most distinguished artists of the metropolis, published three years ago in the "London Repository," when they refused to undertake the construction of tubes of gum elastic from 20 to 30 inches long, with a light metallic spire to be encased outside, for letting them be in the same time internal dischargers of electricity and immediate injectors into the stomach; after my new views, but perhaps from the perpetual hints given by Dr. Reece since that time to his friends, and to me in particular, as long since engaged in researches on suspended animation, not to rest at what I had done already with leather tubes, but to overpower the difficult construction of the long gum elastic tubes, as extending farther Dr. Currey's wise views, they might be applied not only to cases of swallowed poisons, without animation being suspended, even where swallowing and vomiting power should not be lost, but even to cases of suspended animation, from poisoning and intoxication; or from the laborious exertions of Messrs. Gill and Jukes to obtain the object, and particularly from the generosity of the last, who, before trying the instrument on other persons, did not fear to expose his own stomach to the action of opiate poisons, and their successive dilution and forced ejection. The Gazette of Health has spoken of these trials in late numbers, and Mr. Gill had *really* made the first gum elastic tube, 30 inches long, and had annexed to it a very fit and simple syringe at the latter end of June last. What part now in the useful invention shall be allowed to Mr. Bush of

Frome? Has he invented and applied the *exhauster*, or has he been but an *exhauster*? The above analysis, and the date of his article, speaks enough. But in congratulating Mr. Jukes on the fortunate results of his practical trials with the new apparatus, I would advise him to substitute Mr. Gill's syringe to the gum elastic bottle; he will have, in so doing, greater certainty of success in every case which should demand more water than the quantity of laudanum he has swallowed, and certainly greater speediness in operating in any case. Should the price be an objection to the facility of acquiring the gastric syringe, Mr. Gill has taken means to reduce it even to the lowest degree of two guineas. I would let Mr. Bush go in peace with the article on the flexible tube and syringe, &c.; but how should it be possible to close this critical article without an honourable mention of the very period which closes his own? "*In this case there did not appear to be congestion on the brain, but the heart appeared to have lost its sensibility, and no longer obeyed its ordinary stimulus, the blood.*" Who might understand, from such a phraseology, something like physiological or pathological ideas? Does not the blood act on the *irritability* of the heart?

To prevent a repetition of Mr. Bush's mangled invention, and *no application, when even required by a case of poisoning from opium*, of new instruments, with gradually completed inventions and fortunate applications of other people, it is, perhaps, well to say, that on Monday last I went to the London Dock, for the purpose of examining the instruments employed for rescuing persons falling in and remaining under water, and so to put the seal to my researches on suspended animation, with the improved solution of that very problem from which I ought to have started. Mr. Willer, the superintendant of the dock, was very kind, indeed, in shewing me the required instruments, and the manner of using them, and told me that the former ones used at the dock were a great deal heavier, to increase the chance of injuring a body; but, in my humble opinion, the operation might farther admit of improvement.

The instruments are called drags, and at the name, every person acquainted with the provisions of Humane Societies, will remember the iron blade, from which a greater or less number of moveable cylinders, furnished at the end with fixed tripods reversed up are hanging, and the two ropes joined by rings to the extremity of the blade for drawing the apparatus. Such were the drags of the dock, besides poles, armed either with a fixed tripod of the same kind, or with an only hook. At some of the wharfs in the neighbourhood, I had occasion to see other iron drags of the form of *lustres*, with three or four arms farther subdivided, and with circular corks applied to the ropes attached to the two ends of the central piece, for the facility of reckoning the place where the apparatus might have stopped in the river. Some persons, perhaps, might be induced, as I have heard, to bend outward the sharp points of the drags, in imitation of what is proposed by Dr. J. Currey, in the points of an extemporaneous drag, if necessary, formed by* bending the prongs

* Dr. J. Currey says, "*by warming and bending the prongs.*" But, if you do it before accidents, why not procure more adequate instruments? If you do it for sudden accidents, requiring an extemporaneous

of any pitch-fork. But the concavity of the prongs of a fork might sustain, by chance, a limb; or if they should be dragged with their convexity on the ground, the reversed points could get hold of something; when, in our case, I would defy the outward curved points to get ever hold of any most yielding part of the clothing, should even our dressing be similar to the Asiatic. How could hooks, not being with their concavity turned to the drawing force, get hold of any thing? And I could not say any thing better in favour of the points of the *lustres*, which I have seen reversed upwards and inwards. The hooks resulting from their curvature are so little, and so bent inwards, that their convexity will always turn towards the drawing force.

After consideration, if the drag ought to undergo any change, it would be much better to furnish any sharp point with the stopping ring proposed by Dr. Reece some years ago for the blade-drags in use on the river Wye, which he found to answer the purpose. The ring would not prevent the point from holding fast the clothing, and at the same time would prevent any serious mischief, should the point accidentally meet and enter any delicate part of the human frame, as eye, ear, nostril, mouth, or any other which might be accessible to their grasp. But drags drawn by ropes, till they get hold of something, ought only to be had recourse to in broad and deep waters, particularly if cut by strong currents, where any other more mild management of a directing hand would be excluded by the distance of the ground, and the too great resistance of the fluid; and in such cases, I should even recommend the addition of flying hooks, similar to those used by anatomists, under the name of dissecting hooks. They could, perhaps, never damage the face, not even in the only direction which might be dangerous from the feet towards the head, as the chance of grasping clothing, with little and more insinuating hooks, would be much more increased where the speediness of recovering the body is, perhaps, the first condition of cure, and the clothed surface from the feet to the neck is the longest one. In lesser depth, like that of the London Dock, and of many lakes, and rivers, and canals, not much exceeding four or five fathoms at the highest ebb, it would, perhaps, be better to meet bodies with the straight rays of a double-rayed rake, and to search afterwards to catch them on the longer ones opposite, and made elastic, and lightly curved for the purpose; and, perhaps, an instrument commonly used in Italy for rescuing pails and buckets, and even watches, if accidentally fallen in, from deeper wells, called the *she-wolf*, lightly modified, would answer the purpose better, viz. if its iron teeth should be changed into wooden ones, and the form from circular to the rectangular one. Additional nets might be used from the same, or from other boats, for greater surety of not losing the body once met with and grasped. Details of the *she-wolf* and of the *gastric syringe* will appear in the promised work on *Suspended Animation*; and besides details of new box-bellows annexed to Currey's improved larynx-tube, of a more sure and precise management of the pensile galvanic pile, and of the Rev. Mr. Davies of Leicester's

drag, while you lose time in warming prongs, perhaps the person to be recovered from water dies. Prongs may be bent in the best way without warming them; without losing time, where time is precious.

much improved portable metallic bed, more easily and speedily warmed, and better kept so, by the use of lint moistened with spirit of turpentine, and lighted by the ignitor, by the smoke being obliged to circulate through a serpentine tube, and by adequate measures for preventing the dissipation of the matter of heat.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

B. DE SANCTIS,

9th Sept. 1822.

M. D. of the University of Rome.

RHEUMATIC PAIN IN THE FACE.—M. Double has administered the sulphate of Peruvian bark in several cases of acute pains in the face, approaching to *tic douloureux*, with complete success. He advises it to be given in the dose of six grains, dissolved in camphorated julep, three times a day. Dr. Lalaurie, of Eyssen, has found Fowler's solution of arsenic, in the dose of ten drops, twice a day, in a glass of water, to succeed in a case of *tic douloureux*, of ten years standing, which originated in a puncture of a ramification of the frontal nerve. Fowler's solution, and, we believe, all the preparations of arsenic, have had a fair trial, in *tic douloureux*, and the results have not encouraged considerate practitioners to persist in its use.

CROTON TIGLIUM.—Dr. Coley, an eminent physician of Cheltenham, prescribes this oil in conjunction with Castile soap and an aromatic. This composition is not only more chemical than the formulæ which have been published in some journals, but sits more pleasantly on the stomach, and operates more efficaciously on the intestinal canal. The following formula we have found very efficacious in cases of obstinate costiveness.

Take of Castile Soap, half a drachm;

Oil of the Seeds of the Croton Tiglium, and

Oil of Cloves, of each nine drops;

After being well blended in a marble mortar, and formed into a proper mass with liquorice powder, it is to be divided into ten pills, two of which may be administered for a dose. If this quantity should not operate sufficiently on the bowels in the course of six hours, one or two more may be given. The root of the tiglium is considered by the native doctors of Amboyna and Batavia, to be a specific for dropsy. In the *Materia Medica* of Hindostan, as much of the shavings or raspings as can be taken up by the thumb and a finger, is directed to be taken for a dose. The root is both aperient and diuretic.

BITTER ALMONDS.—Many eminent physicians and surgeons of London, have lately employed the emulsion of the bitter almond in preference to that of the sweet in inflammatory affections of membranes, particularly of the lining of the windpipe, vagina, and urethra, and also in cases of morbid irritation of the stomach and bladder. The anodyne property residing in the cortical parts, some recommend the emulsion to be made with the water in which they were steeped, for the purpose of decorticating them; and others also recommend the separated skin to be beaten with the interior parts. Half an ounce of the bitter almonds is sufficient for a pint of the emulsion. It may be given in the quantity of a wineglassful three times a day. The most efficacious forms for the exhibition of the emulsion, in the cases for which it is chiefly recommended, are given in the last half sheet of this Number.

CONSTIPATION.—About twenty-six years since, Dr. Hosack communicated to Dr. Pearson, a remarkable instance of constipation of the bowels, of three years standing, which induced him to employ the mode of treatment following. Supposing that constipation depends upon some obstruction or torpidity of the liver, the Doctor had recourse to the exhibition of an emetic, to remove such a condition of the liver. The operation of an emetic he also found to remove the fever, the inflammation of the intestines, and constriction, which constitute the most distressing, as well as dangerous, attendants on long constipation. The Doctor relates seven cases to illustrate his practice, of which that of Miss L. is the most satisfactory. Being constitutionally disposed to the disease, she had been three times under the Doctor's care. The usual forms of purgatives and purging injections having been administered without effect, an emetic was given, consisting of ipecacuanha and tartarized antimony, by which immediate relief was afforded, although the disease had been present for several days. A second attack was treated in a similar manner, and with similar results. The young lady having suffered a third attack during the illness of Dr. Hosack, she was attended by another physician, who, finding her labouring under symptoms of inflammation, with visceral obstruction of seven days' standing, ordered bleeding, with fomentations, glysters, castor oil, and other laxatives. Finding no relief from these means, the patient, remembering the benefit she had formerly derived from emetics, earnestly solicited a repetition of the same means. This, however, was deemed imprudent by the physician, and recourse was had to calomel and opium, by which salivation was brought on, but the bowels proved obstinate, and refused to move. Fifteen days after the commencement of the obstruction, Dr. Hosack, being sufficiently recovered to visit her, administered an emetic similar to those formerly prescribed, which operated freely, discharging a large quantity of dark coloured bilious matter by vomiting, and which was followed by similar evacuations by stool. In twenty-four hours, the soreness of the mouth was the only complaint remaining.

From the beneficial effects in emetics of constipation, in the Doctor's practice, he draws the following inferences:

"1st, That constipation of the bowels is usually attended with, and frequently produced by, a torpid state of the liver, and consequent deficiency of the biliary discharge.

"2d, That the pain, spasmodic constriction, and inflammation, attendant upon this disease, are the result either of the mechanical obstruction, occasioned by the deficiency of bile, and consequently a retarded peristaltic movement of the intestines, or the effect of a sudden change of perspiration, or of a particular article of diet.

"3d, That, in the commencement of constipation, or in its more advanced stage, when the symptoms of inflammation have been subdued by the lancet, emetics may be very advantageously exhibited, both for the purpose of removing the hepatic obstruction, and of counteracting the spasmodic constriction and pain ordinarily attendant upon this disease.

"4th, That the salutary effects which have been occasionally

derived from injections of tobacco-smoke, are attributable to the general relaxation, the nausea, and in some cases the vomiting, which that narcotic produces.

"5th, That the benefits that have in like manner been obtained, in some cases, from the use of tartarized antimony, administered by injection, are to be accounted for by the nausea and vomiting that have been the effects of its operation; but which are to be obtained with more certainty from the same medicine given by the stomach, and to the extent of full vomiting."

With respect to the propriety of administering an emetic in cases of constipation, it must greatly depend on the cause, the state of the intestinal canal, and sanguiferous system. If the patient be of a plethoric habit, or in case inflammation has taken place in the intestines, an abstraction of blood should precede the use of an emetic. It is worthy of notice, that spontaneous vomiting is a common attendant on long standing constipation, or on constipation attended with inflammation, or the condition of intestine, termed intussusception, and is seldom attended with any evident benefit. Vomiting, however, excited by ipecacuanha and tartarized antimony, may have some beneficial effect on the intestinal canal, especially if a portion should pass into the duodenum.

BURYING ALIVE.—It is not very long since an ingenious writer published a book which might have led its readers to abandon the antient practice of eating and drinking, lest they should be poisoned by the deleterious ingredients which, on the author's shewing, are more or less intermixed with almost every description of our aliment. Our readers will be aware that we allude to a publication by a certain celebrated chemist, and which has not unaptly been entitled "*Death in the Pot.*" We have now before us a large octavo volume, which might have been denominated "*Life in the Grave;*" and, had it obtained an extensive circulation, might have injured our *present* race of undertakers, by filling the minds of men with doubts as to the possibility of demonstrating that the vital spark is actually extinct, even after a patient has, by the regularly constituted authorities in these matters, been pronounced, to all intents and purposes, dead, and fit only to mingle with the dust.

It may perhaps be suspected, from the tenor of this preamble, that we are about to treat with ridicule the apprehensions which the work in question is calculated to excite of the danger of premature interment. But we have no such intention: the subject is, in truth, a very serious one, and well deserves serious attention. We subjoin the title of the book: viz. "A Dissertation on the *Disorder of Death*; or that State of the Frame, under the Signs of Death, called *Suspended Animation*; to which *Remedies* have been sometimes successfully applied, as in *other Disorders*: in which it is recommended that the same Remedies of the *Resuscitative Process* should be applied to Cases of Natural Death, as they are to Cases of Violent Death, Drowning, &c., under the same Hope of sometimes succeeding in the Attempt. By the Rev. Walter Whiter, Rector of Hardingham, Norfolk, and late Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge."

There is nothing at which the human mind more naturally recoils than at the dread of premature interment; a sensation, at the thought of which the stoutest heart sickens. The soldier who, a stranger to fear, rushes into the thickest of the battle, regardless of danger, and undaunted at the demon of destruction that hovers around him, would be filled with the most gloomy apprehensions at a probable prospect of being *buried alive*; with a soul undismayed at death in any shape *upon* the earth, he shrinks with a timidity, approaching to horror, at death *in the grave*. From the earliest ages, mankind have been desirous of possessing unerring data, from which the existence of death might be deduced and demonstrated; and, in more recent times, this anxiety has assumed a still more active feature. But still it lies within the experience of every one to have often listened to the chilling relation of many a valued human being having been committed to the cold grave, ere Death itself had sanctioned the sad solemnity; sent, *possessed of life*, to expend its last efforts in the mansions of the dead, and to expire, with the dreadful consciousness of the irredeemable obsequies which there unhappily closed out the world, amidst the agonies of horror, for ever. We have even well authenticated cases of persons, some of whom were eminent for possessing the richer qualifications of the mind, whose apprehensions of such a death engendered a presentiment that it would really befall them, and who, after suffering during life the most unhappy moments from such a dread, left explicit instructions respecting the steps that were to be pursued, whenever death apparently overtook them. But it has generally been the fortune of these relations, either to be totally disregarded, or reserved as nursery stories, to amuse the young mind, sensibly alive to the marvellous,—with how much justice, the work before us attempts to prove. The reverend author is not unknown to the literary world, having contributed an Universal Etymological Dictionary, on a new plan; some Essays on Mythology, and Commentaries on Shakspeare. We, however, were not aware of the existence of the “Dissertation on the Disorder of Death,” until a friend lately mentioned it casually in the course of conversation. Reserving for a future number the observations which have occurred to us upon the doctrines and suggestions of Mr. Whiter, we shall, on the present occasion, let the author speak for himself. Having informed us, in his Preface, that a period of twenty years had nearly elapsed since the materials of the work were collected, at a time when he enjoyed the opportunity of consulting the medical libraries in the British capital; he then observes, “the combination which I have adopted in the title of my work, the *Disorder of Death*, can startle only for a moment the most unfurnished and superficial of readers. All agree that death, or a frame under the signs of death, may sometimes admit the benefit of remedy, as the same frame may be delivered from any other disorder with which it is afflicted: all likewise will acknowledge, who are accustomed to reason or think, the propriety or expediency of a combination, which, under a new and brief form, may render familiar an important fact, remotely or imperfectly understood. The works which have been written upon this subject (Bruhier is

specified), appear, at various times, to have excited violent alarms on the danger of premature interment; yet they seem never to have represented the matter under a just point of view; and it is certain that they have never produced an important effect on the institutions of any country in which these fears have been excited. The only change which has ever been pretended to be effected, and which the writers upon this subject appear ever to have projected, is the delay of interment; and it will not be difficult to understand that a more extraordinary device cannot well be imagined. This project does not consist in attempting to preserve the good which these alarms suppose and proclaim—the possibility of life; but it is directed to intercept the existence of that good, by securing the opposite evil, death: or, in other words, the alarms have not operated in endeavouring to cherish and revive latent life, but to provide for its extinction, and to secure absolute and putrefactive death.

“I have endeavoured, in the course of my inquiries, to explain the pretensions, by which a writer, not enrolled in the medical order, has ventured to deliver his opinions on the doctrines of that art. I have conceived that a freedom from this professional yoke, has not imposed the disabilities of a penalty, but has conferred even the immunities of a privilege; and I have imagined, that I am from hence enabled to address the public on this subject, in a form more unrestrained, and in a tone of discussion more plain, intelligible, and efficient. I look with full confidence to the co-operation of this enlightened order of men, though I cannot but foresee some impediments, which may arise on the occasion, and which may obstruct some portion of my hopes.

“The fear of deserting the accustomed path, and of pursuing what some might consider as a wild and visionary conception, may perhaps deter the practitioner more advanced in age, and more established in his fortune, from engaging in a new project, as yet unsanctioned by professional authority. But to the young artist, zealous in his pursuit, and unestablished in his practice, such a project opens to the view a splendid commencement of his career, at once most propitious to his fame and to his fortune.

“The artist who shall first recal to life a human being in a case of *natural* death, by the same resuscitative process, which is applied to cases of *violent* death, becomes the founder of a new era, and of a new name in the annals of humanity, of medicine, and of science.”

Thus far from the Preface; what follows is selected from the Dissertation.

“The powers of animal life (says Mr. Whiter), and the nature of the vital principle, afford a subject of inquiry the most interesting and important, which can excite the feelings or engage the faculties of man. The being which we are so anxious to preserve, and so unwilling to resign, is the first object of our hopes and of our fears; and we are prompted by the most ardent spirit of curiosity, to investigate those subtle operations, by which the process of existence is performed, and by which the period of its duration may be prolonged. It has been acknowledged, however, that after all our researches, the difficulties of this mysterious question still remain

to be unfolded, and that we have learned little more than to perceive the extent of our ignorance, and the vanity of our science.

"The *great secret of nature* still eludes our research, and mocks at our speculations. The understanding becomes lost and bewildered, when it endeavours to reflect on the mechanism of its own powers, and the source of its own energies. We are amazed and confounded when we contemplate the union of thought, or even of motion and sensation, with organized matter in the functions of animal life; and our amazement ought still perhaps to be increased, when we meditate on that condition of the frame, in which this union appears at once to be dissolved, and the action of the vital principle is visible no more.

"As we proceed forward in our reflections on this subject, we shall find ourselves more deeply involved in doubts, and alarmed with difficulties. We shall not only perceive how little has been performed to advance the progress of science, but we shall be enabled likewise to understand how vague and imperfect are those conceptions, on which our reasoning has been formed, and by which our practice has been regulated. We shall soon discover, that the very terms, *life* and *death*, which have been adopted to express these different affections of the animal system, afford us, in a variety of cases, no precise or determinate ideas; and that from this source have arisen the most fatal delusions which are to be found in the eventful records of human imbecility." "Little, indeed, will be achieved for the advancement of human knowledge, unless we can persuade ourselves to believe, that the conceptions of every former age on the most ordinary phenomena, may possibly be, in fact, as remote from truth, as in appearance they seem to accord with the universal experience and authority of mankind. Other modes of considering the same objects may arise, which will lead us to conclusions totally abhorrent to the opinions and practices of past ages, however acknowledged and inveterate they may be found.

"The subject of the present discussion will supply us with an awful demonstration of this truth, and should at once destroy all our confidence in that authority, which has been supposed to arise from the universal testimony and experience of mankind. We are now convinced, that the most false and fatal opinions have prevailed in every former age of the world, on the properties of *life* and the appearances of *death*; and we look with ineffable horror on some practices which have been founded on such delusive conceptions. We find, however, that these emotions, strong and impressive as they may seem, have been exerted only within the most contracted sphere; nor have they operated beyond the few objects by which they were excited. The conceptions of the past times on the momentous distinction between *life* and *death*, still continue to predominate in the opinions and institutions of the present. No reflections have been excited, which might conduct the understanding to broad and general views of a subject at once so interesting to our feelings, and so abundant in materials of important meditation.

"Let us rejoice, that some great and fundamental truths have already been established, which, when duly pursued, may conduct the understanding to the most extensive and important conclusions. We have been witness to a display of the most extraordinary facts, which have overturned, in certain cases, the conceptions of all former times, on the subject of *life* and *death*; and they may suggest to us, that other cases may, perhaps, be found, in which opinions equally false and pernicious are still universally adopted. A new world, furnished with spectacles of wonder, has been unfolded to our view. Nature has assumed new forms, and demands even a new language to describe her operations.

"We now live in times in which we may boldly affirm, that the *dead have been raised to life*. We have now seen, that the *dead*, as they have been denominated in all former periods of the world, may again be recalled to the functions of *life*, and be again invested with all the privileges and blessings of existence. It has now been demonstrated, beyond all possibility of doubt and error, that the appearances of motion and sensation are *not* necessary to indicate the presence of vitality; and that the powers of *life* may remain, though the signs of *death*, according to all former notions on the subject, may be unequivocally apparent. The most successful and brilliant proofs of this fact have been exhibited by the Humane Societies, established for the recovery of the drowned; and a new era has arisen, which has overturned the experience, as it has been called, of all former ages in every region of the globe.

"We now learn, that this boasted experience of mankind was not the product of truth, but an experience of their own creation—an experience at which we now recoil with ineffable horror and amazement. We now, at last, understand and feel, that from this experience can only be deduced a portentous fact in the history of man; that there is no abomination, which may not be engrafted among the customs of the human race, as conformable to the laws of nature, and as confirmed by the universal testimony and authority of mankind. It is now acknowledged, that the most illustrious sages in the art of medicine, and the grossest of the people in all former times, have gazed with the same eye of fatal and unsuspecting ignorance on various appearances of *death*; and that they have committed their fellow creatures to the grave, who were still instinct with the principles of *life*, and possessed even with the powers of a sound and healthy frame, ready at once to resume, in all its former vigour, the various offices of motion, sensation, and reflection. While we look back with consternation and dismay on the ravages, which so baleful a delusion must have, of necessity, produced among the inhabitants of the earth; we are still totally ignorant of the extent to which this delusion has been spread, nor *can we form any notion of that wide sphere of action, in which these ravages may have operated.*"

Having thus allowed Mr. Whiter to sound an alarm in the ears of our readers, and with which our own tingle, we are under the necessity of closing his book for the present; but shall resume the subject in our next Number.

COW POX.—Dr. Forbes, Senior Physician to the Chichester Dispensary, has published a concise account of the small pox, lately prevalent in that city, and its vicinity, with the view of exhibiting the degree of security which vaccination afforded in that district. About sixteen years ago, there was a general inoculation in Chichester, and its vicinity, with small pox matter, and about ten years since a considerable number were also inoculated with small pox matter in Havant, Ernsworth, and the neighbourhood; but since that time small pox inoculation has not been practised throughout the district, nearly all the children having been vaccinated. The preservative effects of cow pox against small pox contagion was so evident, that small pox seemed to be extinct. Unfortunately for those who had not been vaccinated, small pox contagion was conveyed to the city by a traveller; but its progress was clearly checked by the effects of vaccination. In the month of June last year, the small pox was again introduced into the city, by a child belonging to a company of comedians. Its influence rapidly extended among the unvaccinated: to the conveyer of the contagion, and a few others, it proved fatal. The epidemic evidently rapidly declined, and would have disappeared, had not some old women revived the infection, by inoculating their own and neighbour's children. From this focus, the contagion spread throughout the city. The alarm became considerable, and the importunators of every class to have their children inoculated with small pox matter were most urgent. The surgeons of Chichester, however, refused to employ small pox matter, except to such persons as were decidedly exposed to the infection, and whose parents refused the protection of cow pox. Only sixty persons were inoculated by them; but how many were by the extra-professional operators, Dr. Forbes had not been able to ascertain—probably about 300. Under all the circumstances of most extensive and most intimate exposure, only eighty cases of small pox, in persons who had been vaccinated, came under the observations of the surgeons and physicians (nineteen) during the whole progress of the epidemic; and all these cases, says Dr. Forbes, “with a single exception, were very much modified; and although a few had considerable eruptive fever, and a still smaller number a considerable eruption of pustules, the disease almost uniformly exhibited the rapid declension characteristic of the secondary affection, and none of the patients were at any time considered to be in danger. The impression left on the minds of the common people in the district, by the results of the introduction of the small pox contagion among so great a number of vaccinated people, is a diminution of the prejudice against vaccination, which the writings of some interested and unprincipled practitioners had produced in their minds.”

The doctor makes the following very just and liberal observations on vaccination:—“In the present day, it is not only unfair, but decidedly injurious to the cause of vaccination, for medical men to attempt to maintain the same high ground which they were accustomed to assume in defending vaccination some years since. The numerous failures, in all parts of the kingdom, of late years, must

have convinced every medical man that the cow pox is not what its discoverer, and every friend of humanity, had fondly deemed it—an almost infallible preventive of small pox; but only a preventive in a great majority of cases, and an *almost* invariable mitigator of the symptoms in the small proportion of individuals, whom it fails to secure against the disease." This candid statement, from the results of extensive experience, and close observation, must indeed, as Dr. Forbès observes, prove more satisfactory and more consoling to the public in general, than any display of nice and speculative doctrines, or pertinacious adherence to opinion, which are confuted by plain and obvious facts, within the knowledge of almost every observer. The plain truth is greatly in favour of vaccination. Were we to give an opinion of the power of vaccination, in resisting small pox contagion, we should attribute the failures to improper inoculation; for to those whom we have vaccinated, we have not been able to communicate small pox. But so many cases of small pox after vaccination have been published by practitioners of great integrity, who were friends to the practice, that we are inclined to attribute some failures to peculiarity of constitution, many more to negligence or ignorance in the operator.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—When Government granted to the Company of Apothecaries the Act of Parliament, in 1815, we think they ought to have laid the Company under some kind of restriction, as to their charges; because that act, and the several prosecutions which have taken place under it, has given to the Company considerable notoriety; and many persons are of opinion, that no drugs are good, unless received from that emporium. We shall not enter here into the controversy which has taken place between Mr. Philips and the Company, as to the genuine quality of their drugs, but shall merely remark, that we think it should not be tolerated in a public establishment of such a nature, that a charge of 3s. 6d. should be made for an article, the cost of which to the Company could not exceed ONE HALFPENNY, and, including the phial, not more than TWO-PENCE. The article was about 18 drops of the liquor of acetate of lead (Goulard's extract), in two ounces of rose-water; yet for this composition, a poor servant was in each of two instances charged 3s. 6d. Those of the Company who benefit by the profits, may consider their stations in the same light as of the Prebendaries of Durham; who replied to a clerical friend that was soliciting the first stall vacant, but was anxiously enquiring of him its value—"It is worth having." A late quack chemist, of the name of Godfrey, by making extravagant charges, induced some of his weak customers to suppose that his articles were very superior to those of other chemists, when, in fact, they were very inferior.

MR. WHITLAW.—On the pretensions of this gentleman to a knowledge of specific remedy for scrofula and cancer, we made some remarks in a late number. To give it that effect, which is likely to promote its grand object, his friends persevere in their plan of establishing a dispensary, for the reception of cancerous and scrofulous patients. If their real object was to give his mode of treatment a fair trial, why not procure for him the appointment of Surgeon to the

Cancer Ward of the Middlesex Hospital, which Mr. Charles Bell would, no doubt, be very glad to resign to him, Mr. Moore, or any old woman. The case is, the eyes of the public have been so opened, with respect to the trade of empiricism, that a new institution is necessary to ensure confidence, or attract attention. Hence, instead of placards and hand-bills, we have dispensaries for the cure of deafness, for exhibition of the Balm of Rakasiri, for the cure of certain disease; medical institutions, by Jew pedlars, totally ignorant of diseases and remedies, to protect the public against the impositions of quacks; and now we are to have an asylum, under imposing patronage, for the cure of *incurable* diseases, and for the patronage of quackery; for, after the declaration made by Mr. Moore, that Mr. Whitlaw would keep his remedy a secret, until he was handsomely remunerated from the purses of his patients!!! what is it but quackery? It is curious to observe the heads of the *liberales* of this country, viz. Mr. Moore, Member for Coventry, and the Birmingham Member, Sir Gerard Noel, sanctioning the most *illiberal* practice existing, even in the most barbarous country, viz. that of employing secret remedies. The thanks of the country are due to the humane and scientific Mr. Rennie, for boldly opposing this traffic, and honestly exposing the pretensions of Mr. Whitlaw. On the declaration of Mr. Moore, that Mr. Whitlaw would enjoy the benefit of the remedy by concealment, (knowing, no doubt, that it would not bear the light,) Mr. Rennie makes the following remarks:—

“Now, I would beg leave to ask, where are those charitable and humane feelings to suffering mankind, so much spoken of and professed? The declaration of this speaker to the public is this: I believe Mr. Whitlaw can cure the most desperate cases of scrofula and cancer—I believe that many persons are now dying under these complaints in different parts of this kingdom—yet I advise him to keep his remedy secret—for what end?—to enrich himself. This reasoning, transferred into life, and generally acted upon, would it not eradicate every liberal, and humane, and Christian principle from the bosom, and engraft, in the site of the finer feelings of our nature, the shoots of the most obdurate and griping avarice? Then would every valuable improvement in the arts and sciences be husbanded with jealous care within the contracted sphere of its most illiberal discoverer, instead of ranging the broad sweep of civilized society, diffusing, with unrestrained generosity, its pregnant blessings on humanity. Then would charity and pity be banished from our land, and the voice of imploring misery would be issued forth in vain. Famine and disease would do their work of death with impunity; for the means of relief would be pertinaciously withheld from each and every one who could not contribute to enrich the possessor. The very hinges of society would be unloosed. To talk of charity, to *proclaim* your petty cases of gratis supply of medicines, when such a general principle is acknowledged, defended,

* “Inquiry respecting Mr. Charles Whitlaw’s Practice in Scrofula and Cancer, by A. Rennie, Surgeon.”

and acted upon, were surely an abuse of terms. 'Charity vaunteth not herself.'"

To those patrons of Mr. Whitlaw, (among whom there is not a respectable medical man), who have imputed to Mr. Rennie "motives of self-interest, ill-will, and party-feeling," we recommend the perusal of the following letter, from Mr. Jarvies, of Margate, a surgeon of great experience and respectability.

"SIR,—All that I can say in reference to Mr. Whitlaw's success in the treatment of any patients of mine, is merely this:—he has had altogether *three* cases under his care; two of them, simple cases of scrofula, have been treated by him for the last fifteen months, and are now as far from being well as when he undertook their cure. The other case was a serious one, of fungous excrescence of the nose. The poor man died shortly after being under the care of Mr. Whitlaw, though he assured me 'that he possessed the means of controlling (curing) disease of every kind.' I *then* so well calculated the powers of this charlatan, that I told him, 'if he effected a cure upon one of the two simple cases, within a year, I would settle an annuity upon him of fifty pounds per annum.'

"In my conscience, I believe Mr. Whitlaw is entirely a pretender, and that he possesses no more knowledge of the treatment of cancer or scrofula, than either Dr. Bossy or Dr. Solomon.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient humble Servant,

"Margate, August 13, 1822.

"DANIEL JARVIES.

"P. S. You are quite at liberty to make use of this communication in any way you think most useful.

"To A. Rennie, Esq. Surgeon, &c. &c."

"The liberality of Mr. Jarvies, in permitting his communication to be published for the good of society, entitles him to the highest credit. If medical men do not step forward to guard the health and lives of the community, who will, or rather, who can? To detect imposition in medicine, *medical* knowledge is indispensable."

In the Second Part of the Inquiry, which will appear in a few days, Mr. Rennie promises to give further evidence of the inefficacy of Mr. Whitlaw's practice, by detailing the particulars of numerous cases, and the names of the plants which Mr. Whitlaw employs. In thus probing the pretensions of Mr. Whitlaw to the bottom, Mr. Rennie will have, as he anticipates, to encounter much hostility from those who patronize and support Mr. Whitlaw, inasmuch as his facts are an imputation on their judgment. We are glad to discover in his spirited work, proofs of his determination to persevere, and that he is not to be deterred from his obvious duty, viz. to elicit truth, and state facts—to shew what is merit, what is pretension, and what is imposture. The observations of Dr. Thornton, who expects to obtain an appointment of Physician *Extraordinary* to the Asylum, and who will have no objection to participate in its emoluments, being destitute of facts, and his remarks on the discoveries of old women, are such, which, in a certain medical

society, are termed "sheep's-head reasoning." If the Asylum plan should be carried into effect, cancerous subjects will find it, like the bourne from whence no traveller returns. Would it not be policy to build it in or near a burial-ground?

BITTER ALMOND EMULSION.—The following are the most efficacious formulæ, for the exhibition of this article (noticed in page 296 of the present Number), in the cases for which it is chiefly recommended.

For Pleurisy, after Bleeding and Purging:—

Take of Emulsion of Bitter Almonds, thirteen ounces;
Ipecacuan Wine, two drachms;
Powdered Gum Arabic, four drachms;
Liquor of Acetate of Ammonia, two ounces;

Mix.—Three or four table-spoonsful to be taken every four or five hours. If the cough be very troublesome, half an ounce of syrup of poppies may be added.

For Asthma, or Spasmodic Difficulty of Breathing:—

Take of Emulsion of Bitter Almonds, twelve ounces;
Oxymel of Stramonium, two ounces; or,
Oxymel of Colchicum Seeds, one ounce.—Mix.

Two table-spoonsful to be taken three or four times a day.

For Morbid Irritation of the Bladder:—

Take of Bitter Almond Emulsion, twelve ounces;
Gum Arabic, powdered, four drachms;
Saturated Tincture of Buchu Leaves, two ounces;

Mix.—Three table-spoonsful to be taken every four hours.

For Indigestion, arising from Morbid Irritation of the Stomach:—

Take of Emulsion of Bitter Almonds, twelve ounces;
Carbonate of Soda, three drachms;
Aromatic Tincture of Rhatany, one ounce;

Mix.—Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day.

For Painful Menstruation:—

Take of Bitter Almond Emulsion, twelve ounces;
Wine of the Colchicum Seeds, one ounce;

Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day, commencing two days before the period, and continuing it during its progress.

The following lotion has been found very beneficial in cases of specific inflammation of the urethra, and inflammatory or irritative fluor albus:

Take of Bitter Almond Emulsion, seven ounces;
Acetate of Lead,
Ditto of Zinc, of each eight grains;

Mix.—To be employed by means of a syringe.

The bitter almond emulsion is also highly extolled as a wash for inflammatory eruptions. The efficacy of the bitter almond emulsion, in allaying morbid irritation or inflammatory excitement of nerves, is attributed by some foreign writers, to the presence of Prussic acid, the proportion of which we find to be very small. Its peculiar sedative property evidently resides in a bitter, independent of the Prussic acid.

MR. CURTIS'S ROYAL DISPENSARY.—It appears, by Mr. Curtis's Book of Cases, that this *charity* was instituted for the benefit of the "lower classes engaged in a *variety* of domestic occupations, to whom deafness is a most serious misfortune, as it either causes them to be dismissed from their situations as servants, or if they are retained, it is attended with much inconvenience to the employers." Squire Curtis is the only surgeon; Accoucheur Sims, the squire's uncle, is the *consulting physician*, and therefore the squire declares, in his short account of it, that "*EVERY surgical aid is given that the nature of the subject admits.*" In cases of foreign bodies introduced into the ear, we suppose Accoucheur Sims is immediately called in to deliver it, by his improved forceps. As the sight of one of this accoucheur's prescriptions for deafness would be to us a great treat, we hope he or his nephew will favour us with one. The donations to this charity, "*lately received,*" amount to nearly five hundred pounds. Those *formerly* received he has not noticed in his last publication; but he states that it is supported by annual subscriptions. Pupils (when there are any) are also required to pay five guineas for three months attendance at the dispensary, or ten guineas for life. The squire, although no in-patients are admitted, advertises *clenical* lectures on the most important cases!!! As this is a *public* charity, we hope the humane founders, Messrs. Sims and Curtis, will not think us officious in requesting the Treasurer, William Cobbe, Esq. to favour us with the amount of the annual subscriptions, and of the expenditures, and also the number of patients which have been discharged, cured, relieved, no better, or in a worse state than when they were admitted. As the charity has been instituted six years, it is high time the founders appointed an auditor, and distributed among its supporters a statement of the disbursements and receipts. We are certainly very desirous to see the statement, because for diseases of the ear so little medicine is necessary, that we should think the expenses of an institution, with two hundred patients constantly on the books, could not amount to more than twenty pounds—a respectable aurist says fifteen pounds. About twenty-eight years since, a charity was instituted by a lecturer on midwifery, for delivering poor women at their own houses, and to supply each with five shillings for the purpose of purchasing wine. To that society nearly seven hundred pounds were subscribed annually. The patients were attended by the pupils, who were required to give five shillings to each, and not one farthing of the subscriptions was expended on the charity!!! If the benevolent founder had not discharged his debt to nature, we should not hesitate to give his name. The fact was, however, well known to all who attended his lectures, amounting to many hundreds, and

with his name the medical profession is well acquainted. As it appears, by the annexed letter from Dr. Nisbet, that Mr. Curtis has accused us of allowing a medical gentleman to attack him in our pages, we think it necessary to state, that the Editor, to whom it is addressed, has no co-adjutor in *this country*. If Mr. Curtis finds it necessary sometimes to employ an amanuensis, he does not. His review of his work he is satisfied will meet with the approbation of every person acquainted with the *practice* of surgery. Instead of accusing the Editors of compromising the respectability of their Work, by allowing any man to attack another from unworthy feelings, it would have redounded to his credit, to have attempted a refutation of our opinions; and, like a man of science and integrity, to have given us the name of Dr. B. on whose cure some pointed remarks were made in the last Number. By refusing to do it, what will be the inference of their readers? They have the pleasure to inform him, that his alphabetical case shall receive further publicity from their pen, in consequence of an additional light having been thrown on some of the mysterious ones. If Mr. Cobbe, the Treasurer, or Mr. Whiting, the Secretary, or Mr. Davies, the Collector, should not condescend to favour the Editors with a report of Mr. Curtis's charity, they will consider it to be their duty to apply to the Royal Patrons, the President, and Vice-Presidents, to second their application.

To Dr. Reece, Editor of the Monthly Gazette of Health.—SIR,—In the last number of your work, there appeared a criticism of Mr. Curtis's work, entitled, "Cases illustrative of the Treatment of Diseases of the Ear, &c. &c." As some officious friends of that gentleman have been assiduous to give the merit of your production to my pen; in justice to myself (though no more careless for ill-founded opinion than I do), I beg you will contradict it, for you are aware I have never contributed a *single article* to your now extensive publication, from its commencement to the present time. It would be better if such pretended *weathercock* friends, that buzz about this weak young man, would attend to their own business; and not, by their ill-timed suggestions, expose him to ridicule from his credulity, and themselves, from their *good-natured intentions*, to merited contempt. Any farther explanation, it is hoped, will be unnecessary on my part, and ampler discussion, Mr. Curtis is aware, will only render matters worse. He has had *my* opinion on the subject, and he is at liberty to publish my letter, if he pleases, should it suit the judgment of his very *discerning* friends.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

London, Sept. 25, 1822.

W. NISBET, M. D.

ENGLISH MEDICINE.—The editors of a few French medical journals have lately been very free in their criticisms on the practice of medicine, and on the medical literature of this country. M. Salle, in the Medical Review of Paris, joins Dr. Broussais, in abusing English practitioners, for the too injudicious use of calomel, for administering irritating purgatives in cases of acute inflammation,

for giving all medicines in too large doses, and for not devoting sufficient time to their patients, to discover the real seat, cause, &c. of their maladies. "At the medical schools," he says, "party spirit militates against the progress of science, and a laudable spirit of emulation; and that the practice of medicine in London is empirical, some practitioners considering medicine to be invented for their own benefit, and not that of invalids." He terms the practice and theories of medicine in Edinburgh, *romantic medicine*; and asserts that Dublin is the best medical school in the United Kingdom. For the last ten years, Dublin has unquestionably been rapidly advancing, as a school of medicine. The charges for attendance at the hospitals and on lectures being considerably less than those made by the hospital surgeons and lecturers in London and Edinburgh, and also for board and lodging, and Dublin being an University, the pupils are considered regularly educated; so that if they think proper to take the degree of M. D. they are regular physicians. At this time, Dublin possesses the first anatomists, physiologists, and surgeons in Europe; viz. Messrs. Carmichael, Wallace, and Macartney. At the public hospital, more polite attention is paid to the pupils than at the London hospitals. Tommasini says that, the medical books of England are nearly filled with cases which were cured by the authors, and that they are, in fact, advertisements of their pretended superior modes of treating such diseases: as to the periodical works, they belong to booksellers, who pay medical men, until they get into practice, to fill their pages. If communications do not arrive, they must be made. Their brains must be employed in inventing cases, &c.; for a half-crown pamphlet must be made every month, or the Editors will lose their pay.

We wish we could say that these attacks on the medical practice of this country are unfounded. There is however a great difference between the constitutions of men who live on slops, weak wines and acids, and indulge in every kind of dissipation, and those who, like the English, live chiefly on solids, and well-fermented wines and malt liquors. On the stomach of a Frenchman, in which an acid is generally present, and also a superabundance of gas, a grain of calomel will operate more violently than five grains on the stomach of an Englishman. It certainly is not very consistent in the French physicians to accuse the English practitioners of giving medicine in too large doses, when they generally require a patient to drink two gallons of *Tisan* daily, and that too for the purpose of purifying the blood!! If these gentlemen were capable of divesting English medicine of the artful practices of some unprincipled members, and their own minds of prejudice, they would find that they are five hundred years behind us as to the knowledge of the nature and cure of diseases.

MEDICAL SOCIETIES.—We are happy to find that the most respectable practitioners of the principal cities of this country, have formed societies, for the laudable purposes of promoting the *science* of medicine by fair discussion, and for discountenancing regular and irregular quackery. In the city of Worcester, a society has existed for some years, the liberal spirit of which merits particular notice. This society has two objects—the discussion of

medical and other philosophical subjects, and for regulating the practice of medicine—for the benefit of, we were going to say, *themselves*; but the error would have appeared to the *enlightened* inhabitants of Worcester, to have been a mistake; and that we really meant to say, for the benefit of the afflicted. The physicians, judging from their own intellects, suppose, that a knowledge of all the branches of medicine is much too extensive for the human mind; and therefore that it must be for the benefit of the public, that the practice should be divided into three departments:—that the physician should prescribe for diseases—that surgeons should perform operations, dress ulcers, reduce fractures, &c.—and that the apothecary should confine himself to compounding the prescriptions of the physicians. The physicians engage not to interfere with the practice of surgeons, and vice versa; and the interest of the apothecaries is not to be neglected by either, in prescribing medicine. Draughts, boluses, and pills, are to be administered wholesale, even to the exclusion of articles of diet. A physician, of great experience and scientific attainments, was reprimanded for having violated their law, by bleeding a patient, afflicted with inflammation of the lungs. His excuse was, that the patient's recovery depended on speedy abstraction of blood, and that the delay of a few minutes might have cost him his life. This excuse was not satisfactory to the learned society; he had transgressed their laws, founded on wisdom and sound policy, and had deprived a surgeon of his fee!! According to the laws of this society, a physician must not bleed a patient, even when he is some miles distant from a surgeon!!! In cases of impending apoplexy, a man's life depends on immediate bleeding; and in case the physician attends from a distance of six or eight miles, which often happens in the country, fatal apoplexy might come on, even before the horse is got ready, to dispatch a servant for a surgeon; and all this time the physician employs himself by looking at the patient, merely because he will not deprive a surgeon of his fee!!! Is not this most enlightened and humane society of Worcester tampering with the life of a fellow-creature, for the sake of lucre? If a physician be so ignorant of surgery, as not to know the characters of different ulcers; if he cannot distinguish a scrofulous from a syphilitic or cancerous ulcer; how is he to know what remedies are necessary for correcting the constitution? According to the politic laws of this enlightened society, the surgeon is to attend to dress ulcers, or to attend to accidents and local diseases, and the physician to prescribe for his constitution; and as to the apothecary, his interest, between them both, is not to be neglected; so that, instead of paying one medical man, the unfortunate patient has to pay three men;—unless, indeed, he be in poor circumstances, when the apothecary may attend, and if the case be surgical, Mr. C. will pray for him. So strictly, however, are the departments attended to by the different practitioners of this society, that in the case of a man who was bleeding profusely from a divided artery in the neck, a short distance from Worcester, a physician, who happened to be passing by, observed, "it is no *job* of mine, send for a surgeon!!" We have heard the late Dr. Campbell, of Hereford, and the late Dr. Cheston, of Gloucester, say, that they had saved many lives by abstracting blood immediately on ascertaining the nature of their diseases. A knowledge of surgery sobers a physician; it makes him a cool and safe practitioner, by destroying the taste for wild theories,—and from this department have emanated the first physicians in Europe. The physician educated in the school of surgery has no flights of fancy. In cases of fever he looks to the viscera, and regulates his treatment according to the state of the sanguiferous system, and any inflammatory attack of a viscus or vital organ. Hippocrates was a great physician, because he was acquainted with surgery; and antient medicine was chiefly surgical. When a man, unacquainted with surgery, commences the practice of physician, he must necessarily take up some theory, and on this he proceeds in

all cases—hit or miss—luck is all;—whether successful or otherwise, he will have his fee. Medical, or constitutional surgery, having of late years been brought to great perfection by surgeons, it forms a part of surgery. Now, if this be the province of surgeons, which is generally admitted, how limited is the field of the physician. If external inflammation belongs to surgery, surely internal inflammation must also;—if external organic disease belongs to surgery, internal must likewise;—what then has the physician to do? Fevers are always more or less dependant on visceral inflammation, and indigestion generally, if not always, arises from a morbid condition of a viscus, which belongs to surgery. Can then the sapient members of the Worcester society point out a line of demarcation, that will enable a patient to ascertain if his case belongs to a physician or a surgeon?

The Society, we are told, have convinced some of the *intelligent* inhabitants of Worcester, that their plan is calculated to prove most highly beneficial to the public, and contribute to the dignity of the profession. That such nonsense should meet with attention in a city where a Russell and a Camaron have flourished, is not probable. Russell would have told them that the physician, unacquainted with surgery, is a mere pretender; but, according to the doctrine of the Worcester Society, the physician who practises surgery is a quack!!! Indeed, with them every man is a quack who dares to question the propriety of their conduct. Well, well, if these learned men have to learn what quackery is, certain it is they have not far to go to obtain a knowledge of it. The physicians of Worcester are endeavouring to ape the London College of Physicians, to establish legitimate medicine, and support the doctoreal dignity!! The most laughable part of this farce is, that one of them, if he has a diploma, it is such an one the College of Physicians would not even condescend to look at: with them it would have no more effect than the testimonial of a certain superannuated old woman, the squire's wife of Sedbury, who supposes that fine-sounding words are proof of medical knowledge. And as to the others, they are liable to be prosecuted for practising without a licence; and even were they to obtain one from the College, it would, according to College laws, only authorise them to practise in common cases of disease. Dr. Phillips, if he should pass his examination, will be one of this humble class. Now, as the promotion of the prosperity of their brethren in Worcester is one of the objects of their Society, why have they not paid a little attention to Mr. Cole, a surgeon of very superior abilities, and of a most liberal and enlightened mind: a surgeon who, when he practised in their city, was an ornament to the profession? We hope the Worcester Society will shortly enable us to form an opinion of their professional abilities, and the value of their *learned* discussions, by publishing their transactions. After the trash the Medical and Chirurgical Society of London have sent forth, they certainly need not be ashamed to appear in print. We beg to inform the heads of this society, that it is not a diploma of M. D. that makes a *physician*, but that the surgeon or apothecary, who practises on scientific principles, is as much entitled to the denomination, as the man who possesses a doctor's degree in medicine. It is common for medical men to undervalue the branch of medicine of which they are ignorant. If the physicians of the Worcester Society were acquainted with surgery, they would be convinced that a knowledge of it is necessary to form a physician. We tell them that we would not allow a physician to attend a cat for us, which we wished to preserve, unless he was practically acquainted with surgery. We advise the learned physicians of Worcester to read Gregory and John Bell, on the duties and qualifications of a physician, and the surgeons and apothecaries to discard all sordid and illiberal views, and cultivate their art for the benefit of their patients.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 83.] To NOVEMBER 1, 1822. [VOL. VII.

Of the late DOCTOR BATEMAN.

DOCTOR BATEMAN was a native of Northumberland. After serving an apprenticeship to an apothecary, he attended lectures on the different branches of medicine, and the practice of the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh, where, after the customary residence, he took the degree of M.D.: he then repaired to London, and after attending the practice of an hospital, commenced the fee trade. Being of an active mind, and alive to all the new discoveries in the philosophical world, he devoted his leisure hours in writing for some periodical works, particularly the *Edinburgh Medical and Physical Journal*, and *Dr. Rees's Encyclopædia*. *Dr. Willan*, also, employed him in his work on the *Diseases of the Skin*; and through this connexion, he obtained the appointment of Physician to the *Carey Street Dispensary*, and the *Fever Hospital*. On the death of *Doctor Willan*, he made an overture to his widow for an introduction to his practice, which being declined, the Doctor immediately published a work on *Cutaneous Diseases*, in which he adopted the late *Dr. Willan's* arrangement. He afterwards published a *Treatise on the Typhus Fever of London*, which contains much valuable practical information.

In our third number we have noticed the doctor's work on *Cutaneous Diseases*.

During his residence in Edinburgh, he took an active part in the discussion of metaphysical subjects; and, for the sake of displaying what he conceived to be original arguments, and of being thought a modern philosopher, he took the side of materialism; and such was the warmth with which he argued, that he really became himself a proselyte to the wretched doctrines. A short time after he settled in London, he associated chiefly with those medical scribblers who entertained the same religious ideas as himself; and, in company, generally brought forward the subject of materialism for discussion. To the opinions of *Mr. Laurance* he professed himself to be a thorough convert, and on all occasions defended his work. If the life of *Dr. Bateman*, as a physician, affords nothing worthy of record, it is, as a modern philosopher, most highly interesting. It has been lately said, by a learned divine, that medical men are more sceptical than any other class, "in consequence of their studies favouring materialism." Now, were we to judge from our acquaintance with the religious opinions of the profession, we should say, the very reverse is the case; and so far from the study of anatomy favouring the doctrines of materialism, it must convince every student, of common sense, that there is the super-addition to the body, termed a soul. The admirable contrivances which the body exhibits, afford indisput-

able evidence of a Creator,—where there is contrivance, surely there must have been a contriver. No man acquainted with anatomy can say, in “his heart, there is no God.” Could the learned divine, then, suppose that a student in anatomy, in his physiological views of the body, confines his observations to the structure or matter of the machine only? Even the opinion of Gall and Spurzheim, that the brain is composed of different organs for performing the operations of the mind, which, in the opinion of some divines, favours materialism, if it were true, cannot be so considered by a physiologist capable of taking a comprehensive view of the functions of the mind; for it must appear clear to such a man, that the whole is under an influence which forms no part of the body, and is in fact the super-addition, termed the soul;—and this opinion has been entertained by the first anatomists and physiologists this world has produced. To say that medical men become sceptical, in consequence of studying only the mechanism of the dead body, is doing them an injustice. When a medical man finds the body complete, how can he account for its being defunct if he does not believe in the existence of soul? If the brain and other vital organs be entire, and the cellular membrane loaded with fat, which is often the case, it must appear to him that the vital powers were kept up by something which is not to be discovered in the body, and that it has parted with the principle which animated it, viz. the soul. The assertion that ideas are mere secretions of the brain, is an absurdity; for the secretions of a material part must be matter, and to say that ideas are matter, composed of atoms, is so truly preposterous, that one would suppose no man, capable of reflection, could for a moment entertain such an opinion. Can any man, in his senses, suppose, that flesh is capable of thinking, reasoning, and of drawing inferences,—and that the dictates of conscience, and the power of distinguishing good from bad, are mere secretions of brain?

In the summer of 1815, Dr. Bateman was afflicted with a serious affection of the eyes, which precluded him from all his accustomed sources of occupation and amusement. After this disease was removed, his general health continued gradually to decline till 1817, when he determined to give the sulphurous water of Middleton, in the county of Durham, a trial, having long entertained a very favourable opinion of their virtues in nervous affections. He accordingly left London for Middleton, but such was the debility of his *material* part, that he was unable to proceed further than Beverley, in Yorkshire, where he remained the following winter. The cold weather having allayed the feverish state of his system and braced his body, he flattered himself that his general health had greatly improved, and that he should be able to return to town in the spring. When the spring arrived—a season to which invalids often look forward with pleasure for a renovation of their bodies—the doctor’s health began again to decline. The languor of system increased rapidly, and the paroxysms of fainting continued so long, that his attendants frequently thought that he was dying; and such were his own feelings, that he often observed, on going to bed, that he should not live till morning, and, with an air of indifference, that his life would

end in eternal sleep! Being thoroughly convinced that his mortal life was really drawing to a close, and that he should derive no benefit from the country air, and only mitigation of his suffering from medicine, he gave up all thought of returning to London, and, for the first time in his life, turned his mind to serious reflection. To the pomps and vanities of life he was now dead: he was, indeed, in a fit situation, being, as it were, between life and death, to take a just view of human life. To him all appeared vanity and vexation of spirit. The days of his vain life now appeared to him to have been "spent in shadow." Having given up all worldly pursuits, and being still, he communed with his own heart. Reflection on the mechanism of the human frame convinced him of the existence of a God. The formation of cells in the lungs in a solid state, as in the fetus, was alone sufficient to convince him of a Creator, and of his omnipotence. A view of the whole physical world, as far as he was capable of taking it, confirmed this opinion. He saw his handy works even in the blades of grass;—or, like the poor Indian, he saw him in clouds, and heard him in the wind. He now observed, to an old religious friend, who had attended him some time, but who had not dared to speak to him on the subject of religion, on account of the obstinacy he had always evinced in the support of his opinions, "The man must indeed be a fool who says, in his heart, there is no God!" Being satisfied of the existence of a God, he turned his mind to the consideration of the probability of a future state. After taking a view of the animal kingdom, instead of many brutes being more favoured than man, or of instinct, in some classes, being a more valuable gift than reason, he became convinced that man is far more favoured than any other class of animals; in fact, he discovered that almost every thing is subservient to man; that man is decidedly at the head of the creation; that the lion, with all the advantages of superior strength, is to be terrified and subdued by man, and that he knoweth not that he will become food for worms; and that the ox knoweth not that he is fed for slaughter. He is convinced that man is indeed very superiorly endowed;—that his Creator has given him the power of carrying his contemplations beyond this world;—and having the power of distinguishing between good and evil, and of exercising his own inclinations, that he must be a responsible being, and consequently that there is a future state. His next inquiry was, what was to exist hereafter? The body, after death, decomposes and mixes with the earth; and by the processes which are constantly going on in the animal and vegetable kingdoms, would, in the course of time, be so sub-divided, that to rise again appeared to him to be impossible. He now endeavoured to divest his mind of prejudice, and to take an unbiassed view of the intellectual operations—as it were, to reflect the rays of the mind upon itself. Taking a view of his former arguments, he was soon satisfied, that the knowledge of which he had made such dazzling displays, must appear "foolishness to God." The influence of the power of what is termed the "*Vis medicatrix nature*" on the body, could not be doubted; and what, said he, is that power?—Is it material or immaterial?

Hitherto he had supposed that the vital principle must be matter, and matter he thought must belong to the physical world only; but now he saw clearly, that by the term *immaterial* was meant something not composed of atoms belonging to the world, and only connected with it by the body; and that on separation it immediately quits the physical world, and the material frame is consigned to its mother earth. He also discovered that the powers of his mind absolutely increased as those of his body declined; and this fact, of which he was thoroughly convinced, satisfied him that the operations of the mind were not functions of the body. He now took a view of intelligence and reason, and after deep reflection, became convinced of the existence of a soul and of a future state. His mind now became extremely uneasy and his system feverish;—death, instead of eternal sleep, was to him a most awful consideration. His long sufferings he was satisfied were for his good;—that they were a just punishment for his long scepticism and neglect of his duty to his Creator. Being convinced of the existence of a God, and a future state of rewards and punishment, he acquainted his religious friend with the change that had taken place in his mind, and, with a countenance expressive of great anxiety, urged him to assist him in preserving his soul alive. He flattered himself that he had been guilty of no other serious crime but that of scepticism, and of unsettling the religious opinions of others. His friend, delighted with this change, conversed with him coolly on the Revelations; and when he perceived that he began to see through a glass, although darkly, he requested his permission to allow him to read the first of Scott's Essays on the most important subjects of religion, viz. the Divine Inspiration of the Scriptures. The Doctor cheerfully consented, and listened with the most intense earnestness, and on the conclusion exclaimed, "This is demonstration; complete demonstration!" He then requested his friend to read to him the account, given in the New Testament, of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which he accordingly did from the Four Evangelists. Finding the Doctor disposed to hear more of the history of our Saviour, his friend read other passages of the Scriptures, with some of which he was extremely struck, especially the declaration, that "the natural man receiveth not the things of the *Spirit* of God, for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are *spiritually* discerned." This state of mind continuing, his friend often read to him parts of the Scripture and of other books, which he thought likely to quiet his mind, and to enable him, as he expressed himself, to make his peace with God. In about a week after this change in his religious opinions, he observed to his friend, "It is impossible to describe to you the change which has taken place in my mind; I feel as if a new world was open to me, and all the interests and pursuits of *this*, have faded into nothing in comparison with it. They seem so mean, paltry, and insignificant, that my blindness in living so long immersed in them and devoted to them is quite inconceivable and astonishing to myself."

He afterwards often expressed, in the strongest terms, with tears in his eyes, and an expression of countenance which

shewed the state of his soul, his deep repentance, and his abhorrence with himself for his former sinful life and rebellion against God. He appeared now to have a clear view of the all-sufficiency of our Saviour's atonement, and of the salvation of his soul through his intercession, which freed him at once from that distrust of forgiveness which frequently haunts the mind of a sinner on the death bed, when taking a retrospect of life. The doctor's mind being calm, his body became more quiet, and he began to flatter himself with a possibility of recovering. His mind now turned on the passages of the New Testament, on which he had formerly commented as irreconcilable to reason. In the absence of his religious friend, he requested his mother to read the whole of the New Testament to him. She began with the first chapter of St. Matthew, and he most attentively listened to her till she had finished the ninth chapter, when he desired her to stop, and lifting up his hands and shaking his head, declared that the account of the miracles Jesus had wrought had completely shaken his belief in Christianity. To cure the blind and to raise the dead without medicine, appeared to him impossible. He now, in a state of dreadful anguish, requested the attendance of his religious friend, who on his arrival, found the doctor praying, in apparently great agony, to be saved. His friend endeavoured to comfort his mind; and on his becoming more quiet, he read to him a chapter from Scott's *Essays on the Warfare and Experience of Believers*, which induced him to take a more unprejudiced view of the Christian religion. After reflecting on the Christian code of morality, he was forcibly struck with its simplicity and beauty. It is, said he, the *only* religion that is capable of making man happy; and if it were universally practised, the kingdom of heaven would indeed be established on earth. It is so entirely free from selfish views, that Jesus himself submitted cheerfully to the greatest indignities and persecutions to give it publicity; indeed, said he, if he had been only man, in such a time of bigotry and superstition, he would not have dared to have promulgated such doctrines. This fact alone, said he, is a volume of evidence in favour of the divine origin of Christianity. The indescribable pleasure the mind experiences on practising it, he now thought was alone sufficient to convince any unprejudiced person of the existence of a soul, and of its being destined for enjoyments which this world cannot afford. I would, he observed, be a Christian, for the sake of enjoying the pleasure of practising the precepts; it does, indeed, carry its own reward. Another convincing proof of the divine origin of Christianity, to his mind, was, that as man advanced in knowledge, its doctrines became more fascinating. He now knew, that on his earthly house being dissolved, he would inhabit a building of God, "a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." He saw no terror in death: life was a mere vestibule to that eternity where true joy is only to be found.

Observing his mother to be in tears at his bed-side, he emphatically observed to her, "Surely you are not in tears on my account? my case calls for rejoicing, and not for sorrow. Only think," said he, "what it will be to drop this poor frail perishing body, and to

go to the glories which are set before me." To a question from his religious friend, as to his faith in the mediation of Jesus Christ, he replied, it cannot be more firm. He declared that the mind, as its connexion with the body decreased, became stronger, and that he was satisfied that God had given every person a kind of instinctive knowledge of a future state. That it pervaded all the human race, and that universal error could not exist; but proud conceited man, said he, must have a more *perfect* knowledge of it than it has pleased his Creator to give him. No knowledge is more certain than that of a soul; it is no use to seek to know it perfectly, for it is inscrutable. Vanity cannot exist without infirmity; it will not allow us to see ourselves, but others to discover us plainly. The pulse in his extremities having ceased, and finding that his heart was acting very feebly, he again observed, that although his body was nearly defunct, his mind was more powerful than ever. Looking at his friends, at his bed-side, he said, in a feeble voice, "I am going rapidly. I am glad I am going, if it be the Lord's will." He then exclaimed, "Lord, receive my soul,"—closed his eyes, and died immediately, without a struggle. Can any person suppose, for one minute, that the mind of that man died with his body, when it was in its full vigour at the moment of dissolution, and that too after a gradual decline of the corporeal powers?

Thus died a man a thorough convert to Christianity, who, for many years of his life, had denied the existence of a future state, and would not allow his most intimate friend to speak to him on the subject of revelation; and we have no hesitation in saying, that thus will die all the materialists of the present day, who entertain the same opinions. In some future number, we intend to give an account of the last hours of a lady, who had been a convert to the doctrines of materialism, and who, like the once high-minded Dr. Bateman, espoused Christianity when she was convinced, from her bodily affections, that the number of her days were very few.

DIABETES.—Dr. Marsh, an Irish physician of some celebrity, having met with a well-marked case of this disease, has been induced to pay great attention to its causes, treatment, &c. In all the works in which the complaint is noticed, he has only succeeded in obtaining useful information from that of Dr. Willis, who first detected the presence of saccharine matter in the urine. The *original* facts Dr. Marsh has discovered, are,

1st, That in many of the cases whose history is recorded, the earliest disturbance in the general health could be distinctly traced to some cause acting on the skin, and producing derangement of its functions.

2dly, That every case is uniformly accompanied with a peculiarly morbid condition of the skin; and

3dly, That none of the remedies employed produced the slightest beneficial effects, until the skin began to relax, and perspiration appear on its surface. It is therefore, says the doctor, chiefly or altogether to the *sudorific* properties of medicine, that the beneficial effects of the remedies that have been recommended for the disease, are to be ascribed. The doctor has accordingly adopted the treat-

ment which is most likely to excite perspiration. The following is an abstract of a case of diabetes, which he published in the last volume of the Dublin Hospital Reports, to acquaint the medical profession with the important results of his investigations.

Mr. Riddall, aged twenty, a shoemaker, was sallow and emaciated, with the skin continually dry, and apparently glued to the muscles; had great languor and debility, with a sensation of creeping coldness even in a warm room; appetite voracious, pulse eighty, full and throbbing; neither cough nor difficulty of breathing, thirst unquenchable, mouth clammy, tongue foul, bowels costive, constant desire to make water which is increased during the night; in twenty-four hours passed above twenty pints of urine, of a very limpid appearance and a very sweet taste, yielding on evaporation a considerable quantity of thick matter, like coarse brown sugar. His first illness was occasioned by exposure to cold, wet and hunger, in a storm at sea. The doctor commenced his treatment by slight bleeding, followed by large doses of mercury, externally and internally, but without any perceptible effect, except that he lost ground. His bowels were evacuated by a dose of castor oil and tincture of senna. His diet was chiefly vegetable. The vapour bath was tried four or five times with little effect, and was laid aside, but was again resorted to, with opium added to the water, which proving almost immediately beneficial, was continued. By persevering in this treatment, and giving occasional purgatives, applying leeches over the region of the upper part of the stomach, the use of animal food, and much muscular exertion, his urine was reduced from twenty to eight pounds in twenty-four hours, and all his symptoms were greatly relieved, particularly the continual sensation of chillness. It is worthy of notice, that the animal food, when he was restricted to it alone, induced higher feverish symptoms. The favourable result of this treatment has convinced the doctor that the sudorifics exhibited internally will not act so beneficially as the warm bath, and particularly exercise, such as "hard walking, riding, dancing, or whatever will produce copious perspiration." The failure in the employment of sudorifics in the practice of others, he imputes in a great measure to the neglect of those important auxiliaries. He advises long perseverance in muscular exertion, after the disease is subdued, to prevent a recurrence of it.

In another case, the doctor prescribed a drastic purgative, in consequence of observing the effect of a diarrhoea in diminishing the quantity of urine. The following is a translation of his prescription.

Take of the bitter apple pill, 12 grains;

Oil of the Croton seeds, 2 drops.

To be well mixed, and divided into six pills, one to be taken every third hour, till an aperient effect be produced.

The patient, not liking the trouble of taking a pill every third hour, swallowed the six at once, and was in consequence copiously purged. As long as its effects continued, the urine was scanty and high coloured.

In a case of diabetes in a young woman, treated by Dr. Cumming, of Whitworth Hospital, the restriction to animal food twice brought

on bad feverish symptoms. She attributed the disease to mental distress. Her skin was very dry, perspiration being altogether suppressed. She was apparently much benefited by leeches applied to the upper part of the region of the stomach, which, as in other diabetic cases, was enlarged and tense. Her diet was chiefly bread, well-boiled rice, and a small proportion of animal food which agreed with her. Her thirst was intense; neither opium nor the vapour bath had any effect on the functions of the skin. The doctor ordered the whole surface of the body to be rubbed with oil, not with the view of preventing absorption from the atmosphere, as recommended by Dr. Rollo, but to soften and relax the skin. After this unction, the warm bath was employed, and the oil was washed off by means of soap. This process, after being repeated three times, brought on copious and general perspiration, which was kept up by small doses of Dover's powders, and frequently repeated. The bowels were occasionally unloaded by the compound pill of gamboge of the London Pharmacopœia. Under this treatment the patient gained strength and weight. When the symptoms run high, the hair of the scalp fell off.

Dr. Marsh relates a case of disease of the lungs in a man who had lived intemperately, in which the vapour bath, by increasing perspiration, diminished the secretion of urine. The disease, he allows, was not diabetes. That the secretion of urine is diminished by increasing perspiration, is a fact well known to every old woman. The following are the concluding directions of Dr. Marsh:—"When the disease is recent, abstraction of blood, if the patient will bear it, and to be repeated if necessary; this, says he, will greatly promote the action of other sudorific means, such as the tepid bath, &c. When there is a sensation about the upper part of the stomach, and what the patient describes as a gnawing feel about the stomach, leeches will be found useful. Purgatives should be exhibited, so as to produce at least one copious evacuation daily; but the rash employment of cathartics may be dangerous."

The articles of diet which agreed best with Dr. Marsh's patients, were broiled meat, soup, bread, well-boiled rice, and gruel. Fish, or potatoes, often disagreed. Carbonated lime-water, with milk, wine much diluted, or beef tea, appeared to agree well. "Food," he says, "should be taken frequently, and in much smaller quantities than the patient craves, as the digestion is very imperfect, though rapid." To determine to the skin, he advises the use of the tepid bath twice a day, flannel next the skin, and active exercise; and, as an auxiliary, eight or ten grains of Dover's powder, every night, or oftener; and, finally, a residence in a warm climate, where Dr. Marsh conjectures, on his theoretical views, the disease must be rare. Whether the opinion of Dr. Marsh, respecting the "morbid condition of the skin, being the cause of diabetes," and his mode of treatment, by warm bath and sudorifics, be new, we shall leave our readers to determine, after reading the following extract from the 13th edition of our Medical Guide, published in 1820.

"The disease more probably arises from a *morbid condition* of the skin occasioning a suppression of perspiration. The secretion of

the kidneys is augmented to carry off excess of serum in the blood, and the consequences of the continued increased action are organic mischief, and morbid urine. The objects of practice are, to promote perspiration by means of the warm bath, and sudorific medicines. Bleeding is also a powerful auxiliary in exciting this cuticular discharge. With this treatment, such other remedies and diet may be employed as the state of the general health and former habits may indicate." (pp. 254, 255). What does the learned doctor mean by "*carbonated* lime-water?" Is he so ignorant of that important branch of medicine, chemistry, as not to know that the lime held in solution in the lime-water, is precipitated, by *carbonating* it, and that the precipitate is insoluble in water?

The part of the treatment employed by Dr. Cummins, viz. of relaxing the skin, by rubbing oil over it, and afterwards washing it off in a warm bath, by means of soap, is very likely to prove a powerful auxiliary to sudorific medicines, and the warm bath in promoting perspiration.

A foreign physician says, that he has always found, on the dissection of diabetic patients, the membranous lining of the pelvis of the kidneys and ureters to be inflamed, and the substance of the kidneys to be increased; and as he has always detected saccharine matter in puriform secretions of inflamed secreting surfaces, he is disposed to suspect that the saccharine matter in the urine of diabetic subjects is derived from such secretion. He differs in opinion with Dr. Marsh, and others, that the digestion of diabetic patients is imperfect; for the appearance of the *fœces* shew that the food was properly digested. "And besides," says he, "the appetite is always very good, and the patient free from symptoms of indigestion, viz. heart-burn, acid matter, and gas in the stomach;" and this opinion appears, from our own observations, to be correct. Perhaps diabetes depends as much, if not more, on some morbid state of the blood, similar to that of dropsical patients, than of the skin; for dropsy has frequently followed diabetes, *i. e.* serum has been effused in the cellular substance of the legs, and in the cavities of the chest and belly, on the secretion of urine being diminished, and vice versâ.

DIGESTION.—For the purpose of repeating Dr. Wilson Philip's experiments with the galvanic fluid on the stomachs of rabbits after eating, we directed four ounces of parsley to be equally divided between two rabbits, of the same size and age. After they had done eating, the quantity left by each was weighed, when it appeared that one had taken only three-quarters of an ounce, and the other an ounce and a half. On opening their abdomens, four hours afterwards, the stomachs appeared to be exactly of the same size, and the contents did not differ either in appearance or weight. The small intestine, termed the duodenum, of the one that had taken the greatest quantity, was filled with the juice of the parsley, as green as the fresh expressed juice, with a little carbonic and acetous acid; and that of the other contained no green matter, but a little slime and chyle. These circumstances, trifling as they may appear to be on first view to many of our readers, are facts of great importance,

and afford a most instructive lesson for those who indulge in full meals. The circumstance of a quantity of the juice of the parsley being squeezed into the duodenum, shews that, in order to carry on digestion, the stomach must not be distended beyond a certain extent. To reduce itself to a proper size, the liquid part was forced into the duodenum, where, in consequence of running into the acetous fermentation, an acid and gas were produced; the former of which, by mixing with the digested food (the chyme), on being emptied into the duodenum, must interrupt the process of chyli-fication, and deteriorate the chyle, which is prepared to nourish the body. The capacity of the human stomach, without being over-distended, varies from two to three pints, and, generally speaking, it is not capable of digesting more than two pounds of food, composed of proper proportions of meat, vegetable, and a fluid. It is, however, very common in high life, for gentlemen to continue eating and drinking for four or five hours, with little or no intermission. A gentleman, who considers himself a *very moderate eater*, lately favoured us with an accurate statement of the quantity of the different food and liquids he took at one sitting. He dined purposely alone, that he might have the opportunity of weighing the quantity of the articles he took; and he states that he certainly took less than when in company, particularly of wine; that he has seen gentlemen eat more than as much again as himself, and also take a bumper where he only took half a glass of wine. The following is a copy of his statement:—

Of soup, with bread	10 ounces
Of fish, with sauce, bread, and potatoes ..	7 ditto
Of boiled beef, with carrots and bread....	5 ditto
Of fowl, tongue, turnips, and bread	8 ditto
Of pastry and jelly	6 ditto
Of cheese and bread	2½ ditto
Of biscuit, preserves, and fresh fruits	6 ditto
Of water, porter, and wine, during dinner .	24 ditto
Of white and red wine after dinner (a bottle and a half)	36 ditto
A bottle of soda water	7 ditto
Coffee and toast	9 ditto

120½ ounces

a quantity sufficient to fill a gallon measure. Now, as the stomach is not equal to the digestion of one half of the quantity our correspondent took, the liquid part, as in the case of the gormandizing rabbit, was forced into the duodenum, before it had gone through the process of digestion. Of this fact every glutton must be aware; for after a full meal, he finds every additional glass to relieve the sense of oppression about the stomach, in consequence of the cold wine occasioning the stomach to contract, and force the liquid part of its contents into the duodenum. The fluid thus forced out of the stomach rapidly runs into the acetous fermentation, the sequel of which is, the production of a powerful acid, and carbonic acid gas,

which, by distending and irritating the intestine, must necessarily render the chyle unhealthy, and of course unfit for the nourishment of the body. The stimulating effects of the wine on the stomach, brain, and nervous system, must also contribute greatly in predisposing the system to disease, or in rendering it more susceptible of the action of unwholesome chyle. In consequence of the mass of blood being vitiated, by absorption of such matter from the stomach and duodenum, all the secretions are unhealthy. The perspiration, during the night, imparts an offensive odour, often in such quantity as to contaminate the atmosphere of the chamber; the urine is morbid in appearance, and, in fact, in quality, generally depositing a mucilaginous or sandy sediment; and the feces exhibit an unhealthy appearance. In an horizontal position, the distended stomach and intestines, by mechanically preventing the free return of blood from the head, either occasion disturbed sleep, night-mare, or apoplexy. When the glutton takes these effects into consideration, can he expect his system to continue free from a local or constitutional malady? The whole body is, in fact, an unhealthy mass; and if the stomach, lungs, brain, or liver, should escape mischief, from the constant degree of irritation kept up in the nervous system, inflammation will ensue in some part of the body, as gout. When this occurs, he generally adopts a different mode of living. The pain attendant on the inflammation of nerves being too acute to admit of exercise, he confines himself to his room; and by the use of an active purgative, a tonic cordial, and proper diet, the system is brought into a more healthy state, and the consequences of his former habits gradually disappear. These favourable changes it is common for gouty subjects to attribute to some beneficial operations of the disease on the system, whereas they are attributable only to the alteration in the mode of living; for had no change been made, the inflammatory affection of the nerves would have extended till it reached a vital part. One of the baneful effects of gluttony is scirrhus of the pylorus, from the chemical action of wine, and other stimulants, and the product of a powerful acid, and from the pressure, occasioned by over-distension of the stomach. This disease is far more common in high life than affections of the liver or coats of the stomach. We hope the experiments on the rabbits, and the observations on the effects of gluttony, will convince our non-medical readers of the necessity of attending to the state of the digestive organs, in the cure of chronic diseases, and more especially in keeping a system healthy, which is predisposed to constitutional disease. We expect to be able to complete our experiments with galvanic fluid on the nerves, stomach, &c. in time to give an account of them in our next number. We have been very particular in repeating them, because the results have been in direct opposition to those noticed by Dr. Philip. We have already ascertained that the nerves are not better conductors of the galvanic fluid than the muscles, or any other part of the body; that the galvanic fluid, employed as it was by Dr. Philip, is a direct sedative, instead of a stimulus; and that, in the manner in which he applied it, it did not pass through, or to the stomach, as he ima-

gined. Another circumstance we have witnessed in the course of our experiments, of no less importance to those who wish to enjoy health than the preceding, is, that by proper diet a most formidable disease of the liver and lungs may be cured. The rabbits we purchased for our experiments were from one mother, kindled at the same time, and were nearly full grown. They had been all fed on green vegetables, their muscles were flaccid, and their bellies large. There was not any difference in their appearances. In the four which had been subjected to experiments, the livers and lungs were unhealthy, the cellular substance of the viscera being studded with tubercles. The two which were afterwards fed on green vegetables, *with bran and oats*, soon became more healthy, and their abdomens much diminished in size. On opening them, after keeping them about nine months, their lungs and livers were found perfectly healthy. There was not even the smallest appearance of a tubercle in either. Now, as the lungs and liver of all the others were much diseased, and with respect to the size of the belly, flaccidity of muscles, &c., they were all alike, it is a fair conclusion that the livers and lungs of all were in the same condition; and if so, the appearance of the livers and lungs of those that had been properly fed, shews that, by proper diet alone, as stated by Abernethy, the most formidable organic diseases of the viscera may be cured. When the stomach is over-distended, the glands, which secrete the gastric juice, are compressed and irritated; the consequences of which are, diminished and unhealthy secretion of that fluid, and the production of acetous fermentation and fixed air, from fermentation of the vegetable part of the contents. The chyme being unhealthy, the chyle must of course be unfit for the nourishment of the body. Hence the source of a great variety of diseases, and the predisposition to those which are occasioned by contagion, or atmospherical influence.

THE MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL TRANSACTIONS, (*continued from page 278*).—The eleventh article embraces the fanciful lucubrations of Squire Shaw on partial palsy. The Esquire commences by stating, that during the last two years *very important* discoveries have been made on the functions of *certain* nerves, by *his* brother-in-law, Charles Bell, *Esquire*. By *researches* into comparative anatomy, and by experiments, in which Squire Shaw condescended to give his brother-in-law, Squire Bell, his assistance, the said brother-in-law and Esquire have shewn, that “the nerves of *all* creatures may be divided into two parts or systems, the one *simple* and uniform, the other irregular and complex, in *proportion* to the *complexity* of the organization.”! The first of these most important discoveries, Squire Bell has termed “*symmetrical or original*,” and the other, the “*superadded or irregular*.” He also flatters himself that he has shewn that no organ, which possesses *only* one property or endowment, has more than *one* nerve, however exquisite the sense or action may be; but if two nerves, coming from different sources, are directed to *one* part, it is the sign of a double function performed by it; and so if a part or organ have *many distinct* nerves, we may, says Squire Bell, “be *certain*, that instead of having a mere accumu-

lation of nervous power, it possesses *distinct* powers, or enters into *different combinations*, in proportion to the number of its nerves." The Squire having assisted his brother-in-law in substantiating these very important facts, has claimed the right of turning them to an advantage in practice. The results of the experiments on the *original* and the *superadded* systems of nerves being very different, it very suddenly struck Squire Shaw's brain, (the bulbous origin of both the systems,) that by an examination into the *phænomena* consequent on palsy, he should find, without the super-addition of his brother-in-law's assistance, "that the *symptoms* would accord with the system of nerves affected"!! He soon ascertained that when one system of nerves is affected, the symptoms are different from those *following* a disease of the other; and that the two systems are seldom affected at the same time. The facts he has collected, he admits, are not sufficiently numerous to permit him "to come to *any* absolute conclusion; but that they are established, he thinks, must be admitted, *because* the Editors of the Quarterly Journal of Science have published a communication from him on the subject!! Squire Bell, says Squire Shaw, "has further proved, that if there be muscles on the face of an animal corresponding in action with the respiratory muscles of the chest, they *will be* supplied with nerves not only from the *original* system, but also from the superadded system through the nerve commonly called portio dura of the seventh pair. To this nerve the Esquires have agreed to give the name of the *Respiratory* nerve of the face"!! A respiratory nerve in the face is indeed a most important discovery. The wonderful fact will, we suspect, bring into such violent action the risible muscles of anatomists, as may induce some to trace their influence to the neck, if not the chest and abdomen. If one nerve of the face has more to do with respiration than another, it is the fifth pair; for it is connected with the intercostal, and through it the respiratory muscles of the chest may be brought into action as in sneezing, excited by irritating the branches going to the nostrils.

By the insertion of the paper in the Quarterly Journal of Science, Squire Shaw has also shewn, "that in the *common* cases of palsy after apoplexy, the muscles are only paralysed in those voluntary actions, the perfection of which depends on the nerves of the original class, while in case of partial palsy of the face, in consequence of the affection of a nerve of the superadded system, the muscles are deprived *only* of the power over those actions, which are to a *certain* degree involuntary, or to perform which it is necessary there should be a combination with the organs of respiration"!! It is also thereby proved, says Squire Shaw, that if, in a case of palsy of one side of the body, those actions of the muscles (those of the face particularly) which are regulated by nerves of the superadded system, be excited, the symptoms produced by the palsy of the original system will disappear for the time. He thinks it is also shewn, that if in a case of palsy of a nerve of the superadded system, the actions *controlled* by the nerves of the original system be excited, analogous results will be obtained."!! What important *facts* are these! Palsy of one side of the body may then be speedily cured by exciting the

nerves of the superadded system, and palsy of a branch of the superadded system by exciting the original!! Unfortunately for the credit of the Squire, every practitioner, who has seen a case of palsy of one side of the body, knows that the nerves which the Squire and his brother-in-law termed original and superadded, are effected in equal degree; and the fact that one is roused into action by stimulating the other, shews that they are intimately connected, and that the superaddition exists only in their brains.

Partial palsy of the face the Squire has discovered to be confined to the *superadded* nerve termed the portio dura of the seventh, (in which he and his brother-in-law have given the rank of an original nerve, no longer a *portion*, under the name of the *respiratory* of the face); and that "it is seldom caused by an affection of the brain, as has been *hitherto* supposed; but that it generally depends on some injury, or disease of the respiratory nerve: and as a proof of the truth of this assertion, he brings forward a few cases of palsy of the said respiratory nerve of the face, all of which were occasioned by inflammation and suppuration, which acted immediately on the nerve!! They were, in fact, local affections of the nerve, in consequence of a local cause. Will any man, acquainted with anatomy, physiology, and paralytic affections following apoplexy, say that the portio dura, so pompously termed the respiratory nerve of the face, does not receive its power of acting from the brain? and if so, will not compression of a certain part of the brain paralyse it, as well as other nerves?

In one case, of palsy of the face, which *commenced with violent pain below the ear*, evidently in the petrous portion of the temporal bone, through which the nerve passes, one side of his face became paralysed, for which he consulted many eminent medical men. "Their first plan of treatment," he says, "was bleeding, blistering, and starving, the disease being supposed to have its origin in the brain." Now we cannot believe that any medical man, and especially an *eminent* one, would adopt such a treatment, unless there were symptoms of general or local plethora: medical men in general are, in our opinion, too apt to consider paralytic effects as local. After asserting that the *palsy commenced in pain under the ear*, it does not become him to speak of the ignorance of *eminent* medical men, or of an apothecary, for bleeding a patient afflicted with inflammation of the tonsils, attended with symptoms of inflammation of the brain; for ignorant indeed must the apothecary be who could not tell him that the palsy was the consequence of the inflammation, of which the violent pain was a symptom, and that the palsy did *not* commence till it was subdued, and for which bleeding and blistering were unquestionably proper. The palsy was, most probably, produced by effusion in the petrous portion of the bone, the consequence of inflammation. The learned Squire must also have a slap at Mr. Abernethy. In the particulars of the same case, "attention to the digestive organs, and the blue pills, had no effect." And why not? Because, as he admits, mercury had been carried to such an extent, that the patient had lost several teeth. The last advice he received, previously to his application to the Squire,

"was to wear an issue in *his neck*, with which he did not comply, because he thought it would, like the other treatment, render him more uncomfortable."

The Squire, with his usual consistency, on closing this case (in which he neither notices the termination, nor the effects of any plan of treatment), pops suddenly on an affection of the eye of a young woman, which he terms *gutta serena*. Although the eye appeared to be perfect, and the pupil to contract as well as the healthy eye, the patient could not see even the most brilliant object with it. The learned gentleman supposes that the motion of the iris depends on other causes than merely the state of the retina. No oculist, of the present day, looks to the retina only for the cause of *gutta serena*, and especially for the motion of the iris, although we believe that the latter depends greatly on the healthy state of the retina; and in all cases of *gutta serena*, as Mr. Stevenson has clearly pointed out, the retina is not diseased, the cause of blindness being within the skull, frequently the part of the brain from whence the optic nerve originates. The Squire thinks that his case of *gutta serena*, with a movable pupil, proves that "the common opinion, of the pupil being *always* immovable in this disease, is founded in error." It may be a common opinion with the Windmill-street Esquires, but *surgeons* know that it is very rarely, if ever, entirely immovable, and generally judge of the probability of treating it successfully from the degree of contraction on sudden exposure to light.

In a case of palsy of the right side of the face, evidently from an effusion in the petrous portion of the temporal bone, from inflammation, a very frequent occurrence, he observes, the patient particularly lamented that, since the day he was first attacked, he has not been able to close the right eye:—and well, says he, he may; for the *constant* exposure of the eye to the light and dust has been the cause of so many attacks of inflammation, and, *consequently*, of the opacity of the cornea, that the eye is now *completely destroyed*; and this, Squire Shaw fears, will often occur in similar cases, for he has observed that the eye has *always* become inflamed in those animals in which the *respiratory nerve of the face* had been cut. This inflammation he has observed to be more severe in the dog and in the ass, than in the monkey.

One great source of the increase of the inflammation, he says, is the *purulent* secretion of the tunica conjunctiva. This he has found monkeys to wipe away with their *hands*; but in the dog and the ass, it lodges between the eye-lids, so as to form an additional source of irritation. Before this wonderful discovery, *surgeons* supposed that the *purulent* discharge was the effect, and not the cause of the inflammation; and that *purulent secretion*, instead of exciting, allays irritation; and we suspect that the assertions of Squire Shaw will not convince them of their error. The important discovery, that the monkey can more effectually remove the discharge from his eye than the dog and the ass, is so very interesting, that we shall never see either a monkey or an ass, without thinking of Squire Bell, or his brother-in-law, Squire Shaw; for we thought that the dog and the ass possessed the power of rubbing their eyes as

effectually as the monkey; the former, by raising his leg to the eye, and the latter by bending down his head, so as to rub the eye against the inside of the knee, a position which favours the escape of the discharge. When the Squires found, on dividing the respiratory nerve of the face, that the animal had not the power of closing the eye, (a fact well known before) why did he not ascertain the effect of paralysing the antagonist muscle, (the levator palpebræ superioris) by dividing the branch of the fifth pair of nerves leading to it? If it were also paralysed, would not the eye-lids close?

In case of palsy of the face, the learned Squire fancies he has ascertained, that the wasting of the muscles, was in consequence of their not being called into action for many years!! Is not the action of the arteries, which convey nourishment to the muscles, influenced by nerves?—and when a nerve is paralysed, does not the part always become emaciated, although the muscles are artificially exercised, in consequence of diminished action of the arteries?—and on what set of nerves does the action of arteries depend? A super-addition to the super-addition, we suppose. Among the evidence the Squire has brought forward, in support of the importance of his discovery, is the case of “an *eminent surgeon*.” When a student, this now-eminent surgeon “was attacked with partial palsy of the face, for which he was treated, as if it had been caused by an affection of the brain. Under this treatment, the paralytic symptoms gradually disappeared; but they would *probably*,” says the Squire, “have been subsided without any such *severe measures*.” So convinced was the surgeon that it depended on the state of his brain, that, up to the *present* day, he is alarmed by the slightest head-ache, fearing that it is only the precursor of a more serious attack, than that which he suffered while a student. “I hope,” says Squire Shaw, “the cases I have related will set my old friend’s mind at ease on the subject.”!! Now, as the life of an *eminent surgeon* is valuable, we hope, in case the paralytic affection of the face should be accompanied with head-ache, giddiness, or other symptoms of over distension of the blood-vessels of the brain, that he will not hesitate a moment in adopting the treatment which he had found to succeed when he was a student. But as the gentleman is an *eminent surgeon*, and holds the appointment of Surgeon to a provincial Hospital, he no doubt knows how to appreciate modern theories, and to distinguish between flights of fancy and sound theories, founded on facts, as well as the speculations of adventurers, from the works of experienced men, whose *only* object, in publishing his opinions, or the results of his practice, is the benefit of mankind.

Speaking of his visit to the principal Hospital in Paris, he observes, “M. Cloquet, one of the *most ingenious* learned surgeons in Paris, in his morning visit to the Hospital in St. Louis, drew my attention to the case of a woman, who had some unusual symptoms, produced *apparently* by a fracture of the collar bone. On examining her, I discovered *all* the appearances of palsy of the portio dura, (the respiratory nerve of the face of Squire Bell); and on further inquiry, I found that, at the time the bone was broken, she had received a blow on the temporal bone of the same side. I ought here,” says

the Squire, "*in justice to the frankness and liberality of M. Cloquet, to state that he immediately and cordially congratulated me, on having an opportunity of giving ocular proof of the correctness with which I had described the consequence of an injury to the portio dura, and which he, at the same time, acknowledged was quite new to him.*"!! This, we presume, is the puff indirect. M. Cloquet must indeed be a very ingenious and learned surgeon, not to know that a violent blow on a nerve will produce palsy of the part; and the Squire, by noticing the "frankness and liberality" of M. Cloquet, knows how to estimate the compliments of a Frenchman. The effect of fulsome flattery often shews the man.

In the chapter on the treatment of palsy of the *super-added system*, to which we impatiently referred for the benefit paralytic subjects were to receive from these important discoveries, he observes:—"In cases of long standing, we can *scarcely* expect to do much good by *any* plan of treatment; but, in the early stages, we may *perhaps* be able, by active local treatment, to restore the nerve to a power of performing its functions. I cannot, *as yet*," says he, "offer any example of the effect of remedies upon the injuries of the portio dura (the respiratory nerve of the face), *because* the cases which have occurred to me, since the discovery of the cause of the palsy, have existed too long to expect that any benefit would result from the most active treatment."!! He proceeds: "We have instances of the cure of the same kind of partial palsy in other parts of the body; and I think there can be little doubt that, by following the same plan of treatment in those of the face, we *may* be successful."!! Although he had published papers in the Quarterly Journal of Science, and made communications to the Royal Society, to which he refers his readers, he admits that, "at present I am watching the progress of a case of *partial* palsy, for information."!! He expresses a hope that the "nerve may be restored; for *already*, within a week, a *smart* blister, laid *in* the course of the *inflamed* part of the nerve, appears to have produced *some* effect."!!! He concludes: "If blistering, and the occasional application of leeches, restore the power of the nerves in this man, we may presume that a treatment somewhat similar will be beneficial in cases of palsy of the respiratory nerve of the face," discovered by Squire Bell!!! Now what opinion must foreigners form of this Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, and of the state of medicine in this country, after reading such most contemptible trash? Is there a medical man to be found, so ignorant as to suppose that a paralysed nerve is in a state of inflammation? Is the sensibility or irritability of a nerve diminished by inflammation? Let those who have had a paroxysm of gout answer this question. In partial palsy, whether the consequence of compression, or the sequel of an injury or suppuration, would any medical man think of abstracting blood from the part by leeches? Out with such contemptible nonsense, we say, and so must say every professional man, that has had patience to read Squire Shaw's lucubrations. We are really ashamed to occupy so much of our pages with such nonsense. In our next number, we intend to notice the comments of Mr. Wallace, of Dublin, and Mr. Mayo, of London,

on Mr. Bell's pretended discoveries, and the remainder of the articles in the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*.

The teachers of the Windmill-street School suppose that they have a right to take the lead in the practice of the West End, and to secure it, book advertisements are necessary. It is somewhat curious that, for many years, there has been a family connexion among them, which has favoured their views, and that a stupid ignoramus, on entering it, immediately becomes a very clever fellow. On the exertions that have been made to bring forward a member of a family combination, we have made some comments in a former number. On one occasion, a physician introduced a relative to attend, as an accoucheur, almost the first lady in this country; who, when he gave his evidence before a coroner, as to the state of his mind when he committed an act of suicide, about six months after the unfortunate death of his patient and her infant, declared that he had noticed symptoms indicative of an unsound mind for upwards of two years!! To recommend such a man to attend in a case which was certainly very likely to operate powerfully on his mind, was perhaps carrying brotherly affection too far; what say you to this, Mr. Common Sergeant Denman? All, no doubt, very correct. Such combinations should be opposed by every medical man, who has any regard for the honour of his profession.

MERCURY.—Mr. Wright, Surgeon-Aurist, of London (Surgeon-Aurist to her late Majesty Queen Charlotte, author of an *Essay on the Anatomy and Disease of the Ear, &c.*), having met with many cases of deafness, evidently occasioned by the injudicious or long-continued use of mercury, has published "*Observations on the effects of Mercury on the Organs of Hearing, and the improper Use of it in Cases of nervous Deafness,*" with the view of calling the attention of the faculty to this subject, and to a species of nervous deafness, which may be, with much propriety, termed mercurial deafness. This disease, which has not been noticed by any other writer, this experienced and scientific aurist intimates his intention to notice particularly, in a practical examination of all the methods of treating deafness, and other diseases of the ear, that have been practised in this country, or on the Continent; which it seems he has been some time engaged in preparing for the press, with a translation of a very scientific work, recently published in Paris, by M. Itard. Since the absurd theory became fashionable, that all chronic, and many acute diseases either originate in, or are dependant on, "hepatic derangement," the consumption of quicksilver has so wonderfully increased in this country, that as many tons are now imported as pounds were fifty years since. "This powerful remedy," observes Mr. Wright, "ought never to be administered, except under the direction and superintendence of a competent medical adviser;" and he condemns the general use of it, in the complaints of children, by nurses and parents. Mercury is, unquestionably, the most valuable medicine we possess; and we agree with Mr. Wright, that it has been most shamefully abused by ignorant pretenders and narrow-minded theorists; but we are really disposed to think, that in the hands of parents, it is less likely to do

mischief, than when prescribed by *some theorists* of the present day, who consider twenty grains a small dose even for an infant! The practice of parents is to give one or two grains of calomel at bed-time, and a few grains of rhubarb the following morning; and administered in this manner twice a week for a fortnight, it has proved highly beneficial in enlarged or irregular bowels. It is the practice of keeping up the effect of mercury on the system, and especially on the nerves of the face, which Mr. Wright condemns, and not the occasional use of calomel as a purge. Mr. Wright's observations are, in a practical point of view, very valuable, and the profession will, no doubt, feel obliged to him for directing their attention to the subject.

DEFORMITY OF THE CHEST.—The fact that distortion of children, commonly called the "*chicken-breast*," has of late years very much increased in this country, demands from the scientific surgeon the most prompt and efficient means to arrest its destructive effects. Various instruments, denominated "*back-boards*," &c. have been contrived for the purpose of obviating this distorted growth of the bones of the chest; but they have all been so imperfect in the principle necessary to produce the desired effect, and have possessed such mechanical powers, as render them not only useless, but in many cases even *prejudicial*, that expectations of benefit from their use have very rarely been realized. Surgeon Jukes, of Great Peter Street, Westminster, (whose ingenuity in the construction of surgical instruments we have often had occasion to notice, and particularly his valuable apparatus for removing poisons from the stomach, described in the late numbers of the *Gazette of Health*,) has just perfected a simple and very ingenious little machine, which is entirely free from the objections attributable to all others, whilst it effects much more completely the objects in view, in remedying the distortion of the chest. It is constructed of extremely flexible springs, allowing the free and natural motions of the muscles of the arms and the back, and thereby avoiding the distress and inconvenience occasioned by the unyielding pressure of the instruments in common use. Mr. Jukes has received numerous applications from parents unfortunately possessing children either thus afflicted, or threatened with the disease; and we understand the apparatus affords perfect satisfaction.

OVARIAN DROPSY.—Dr. Nathan Smith, Professor of Physic and Surgery, in Yale College, Connecticut, has published a case of this disease, which he cured by the following operation:—"The patient being placed on a bed, with her head and shoulders somewhat raised, an assistant pushed up the tumour to the middle of the abdomen, and held it there. He then commenced an incision, about an inch below the umbilicus, directly in the *linea alba*, and extended it downwards three inches. He carried it down to the peritoneum, and then stopped, until the blood had ceased to flow, which it soon did. The peritoneum was then divided, the whole extent of the external incision. The tumour, now exposed to view, was punctured, a canula was introduced, and seven pints of a dark coloured ropy fluid were discharged into a vessel. About one pint

was lost; so that the whole was about eight pounds. Previous to puncturing the tumour, by introducing the finger by the side of it, he ascertained that it adhered for some extent to the parietes of the abdomen, on the right side, between the spine of the ilium and the false ribs. After evacuating the fluid, he drew out the sac, which brought out with it, and adhering to it, a considerable portion of omentum. This was separated from the sac by the knife; and two arteries, which we feared might bleed, were tied with leather ligatures, and the omentum was returned. By continuing to pull out the sac, the ovarian ligament was brought out; it was cut off; two small arteries were secured as before, and the ligament returned. He then endeavoured to separate the sac from its adhesions to the parietes of the abdomen, which occupied a space about two inches square. This was effected by a slight touch of the knife at the anterior part of the adhesion, and by the use of the fingers. The sac then came out whole, excepting where the puncture had been made; and he thought it might weigh between two and four ounces. The incision was then closed with adhesive plaister, and a bandage applied round the abdomen. No unfavourable symptoms occurred after the operation. In three weeks the patient was able to sit up and walk, and has since perfectly recovered."

Dr. Smith states that he was induced to undertake this operation, from the following considerations:—"The patient, although her health was not greatly injured, was sensibly affected by the disease. She was quite certain that the increase of the tumour in a given time was augmented, and probably at no very distant period it would have destroyed her." The Doctor had had the advantage of dissecting the body of a patient who had died of an ovarian dropsy, after having been tapped seven times. In this case the sac was found to be the right ovary, which filled the whole abdomen, but adhered to part, except the proper ligament, which was no larger than the finger. The Doctor had seen two other ovarian sacs, which were taken from patients after death. They had been tapped several times, and the sacs were equally unattached, except to their own ligaments. Thence the Doctor inferred, that in a case of ovarian dropsy, while the tumour remained movable, it might be removed with prospect of success; and the event of the operation noticed above, justified his expectations.

A Doctor Dzondi, some time since, proposed the attempt to cure ovarian dropsy, by introducing a tent, after evacuating the contents by puncturing, with the view of occasioning the sac to slough, so that it might be withdrawn by the forceps. The sloughing of so large a sac in the abdomen, would most likely produce very serious mischief; and the idea of withdrawing it in that state, by means of a forceps, through so small an opening, is ridiculous.

APOPLEXY.—In an apparently hopeless case of apoplexy in an elderly woman, where there was no power of deglutition, Mr. Thompson, an eminent surgeon-apothecary of Kensington, introduced about two drops of the oil of the croton seeds into the back part of the mouth, by means of a feather, which in the course of an hour operated so briskly on the bowels, that the patient soon exhibited

symptoms of recovery. The following morning she was perfectly sensible, and in the evening was quite well. In cases where the patient has not the power of swallowing, and where the speedy unloading of the bowels is of importance, the croton oil is a most valuable remedy, the desired effect being produced by its action on the gullet.

Dr. Darwall, physician to the Public Dispensary in Birmingham, has prescribed the croton oil very extensively, and the results have satisfied him that it is a very valuable purgative medicine. He has generally found it to produce nausea, and sometimes vomiting, but not so frequently griping. He has observed one circumstance to attend its operation, which has not been noticed by any writer, viz. the very little constitutional derangement it leaves. After the operation of other drastic purgatives, says the doctor, "a feverishness and a loss of appetite remain for a considerable time, and the purging excited by elaterium is frequently alarming." None of these consequences occur after the croton oil; for however violently it may have operated on the bowels, he has not met with an instance of its having left the slightest disorder or uneasiness. In other respects the doctor's experience corresponds with the accounts which have been given of it by other writers. A clergyman of Devonshire informs us that he has found the croton oil pills, noticed in our last Number, very efficacious in a case of obstinate costiveness; but the nausea they produced continued for two days, and the peculiar irritation in the upper part of the gullet did not subside for a week.

LEECHES.—SIRS, Having often experienced great difficulty in making leeches fasten with their mouths to the skin, I have great pleasure in sending you the following information, which I acquired by an accident, for insertion in your invaluable Journal. Dip the mouth of the leech into fresh porter, and apply it immediately to the spot from whence it is deemed advisable to abstract blood, and it will immediately fasten on it and begin to suck. By following this direction, not only much time will be saved, but the leech may be applied to any particular spot, which in some local affections is of great importance.

I am, Sirs,

Southampton Row,

Your constant reader & sincere friend,

October 16, 1822.

H.

SUPPRESSION OF URINE.—The non-secretion of urine is so rare a disease in this country, that we have pleasure in being able to insert the following well marked case of it, which lately occurred in the practice of Mr. Bidwell, an eminent surgeon of Warbleton, in Sussex.

On Thursday, the 8th of August, Mr. Bidwell was requested to see a man named Jenner, a carpenter, residing at Burwash, who had not voided urine for three days. He was verging on 60 years of age, and of a plethoric habit. He complained of great pain in the course of the ureters, and in the region of the stomach. Anxiety was strongly depicted in his countenance; the pulse was hard, full, and jarring, not exceeding ninety. No probable cause could be assigned for the complaint. Mr. Weston, the attending practitioner, had previously extracted 24 ounces of blood, administered saline cathartic medicines, recommended the warm bath, and passed the catheter.

On examination, Mr. B. could not perceive that intumescence above the pubes which characterizes retention; nor did the sensation of a distended bladder present itself to the finger in the rectum. Mr. B. however, considered it to be his duty to pass the catheter, but no urine following its introduction, he was convinced the case was suppression. He ordered him to be bled in the erect posture, and though nearly three pounds of blood were extracted, the depletion was not attended by fainting. He then ordered him to be immersed in the warm bath twice during the night, and prescribed the following:—

Take of Foxglove Powder, one grain;

Syrup, sufficient quantity to form a pill; one of which to be taken every third hour with the following draught:—

Take of Camphorated Mixture, one ounce and a half;

Sweet Spirit of Nitre, three drachms.—Form a draught.

On visiting him the next morning, he expressed considerable relief, though the kidneys had not resumed their secretory functions. Perceiving great tumefaction, he applied cupping glasses over the lumbar region, and extracted blood to the extent of three pints. The anguish of the patient was still further alleviated by this evacuation. Convinced that nothing but bold and decisive practice could afford the most distant hopes of recovery, Mr. B. ordered the following pill and draught:—

Take of Calomel, one grain;

Foxglove Powder, two grains;

Form a pill; to be taken every third hour with the following draught—

Take of Infusion of fresh leaves of Foxglove, one ounce and a half;

Sweet Spirit of Nitre, three drachms.—Mix.

He recommended this plan of treatment to be persisted in as long as the suppression lasted, and then taking leave, he requested Mr. Weston to inform him of any material change in the patient. On Sunday afternoon, Mr. W. informed him that the disease continued, and that hiccup and tendency to drowsiness had supervened with a sinking pulse. Conceiving the case as hopeless, Mr. B. ordered the foxglove to be omitted, and the following to be administered:

Take of Sulphuric Æther, half an ounce;

Camphorated Mixture, six ounces.—Mix.

Two table-spoonsful to be taken every third hour.

On Tuesday, Mr. B. was informed that the man had discharged large quantities of urine, and was rapidly recovering. The kidneys had recommenced secreting the day previous, after having been in a state of total inaction for six days.

The following reasons induced Mr. B. to publish this case:—“First, the disease almost universally terminates fatally;—Secondly, the proximate cause of death has been proved to be apoplexy;—Thirdly, no regular treatment of this complaint is laid down by authors.”

The sanguiferous system being overloaded, in consequence of the secretion of the kidneys being suspended, bleeding and purging are unquestionably proper; but the following mixture would, in our

opinion, be more likely to bring the kidney into action, than either foxglove, or the sweet spirit of nitre.

Take of Almond Emulsion, six ounces;
Oil of Turpentine, four drachms;
Liquor of pure Potass; two drachms.

Mix. Two or three table-spoonsful to be taken every three or four hours.

A turpentine clyster would also be proper. The bladder should likewise be injected with warm water, and the skin over the region of the kidneys, irritated with a liniment of olive oil, liquor of pure ammonia, and oil of turpentine. The warm-bath, and application of cold water to the head, are likely to prove powerful auxiliaries to this mode of treatment.

CRYING OF A CHILD IN THE WOMB.—Dr. Lister, an eminent physician of London, has published a case of a child who cried in the womb, forty-eight hours before it was born, which was communicated to him by a Doctor Ziterland. Being a very uncommon occurrence, the Doctor thinks it worthy of being recorded in a respectable Journal. Now, as the lungs of a child in the uterus, are in a state of collapse, and the body surrounded by a fluid heavier than water, how can it be possible for it to cry? The Doctor must have a very accurate idea of the powers by which the noise of crying is produced. As long as this great philosopher, and the great Sir Everard Home, live, the Royal Society of London cannot be at a loss for a proper person to fill the President's chair, in case of a vacancy.

WEN.—The following communication, on the efficacy of iodine, in dispersing the tumour, termed wen, is from the pen of Mr. J. B. Austin, an experienced and scientific surgeon of Haslemere, in the county of Surrey, where the disease is very prevalent.

"I lately had two patients brought to me—sisters; the eldest about fourteen, the youngest between eleven and twelve years of age: the tumours of both had been gradually increasing from childhood, and were now very prominent. In the eldest, both lobes of the gland were equally enlarged; the right lobe of the youngest was the part most affected; in both they were hard, and unyielding to pressure. Wishing to try the comparative efficacy of iodine, and the burnt sponge lozenges, I furnished the eldest with a concentrated tincture of iodine, and desired her to take ten drops, twice a day, in water, and to increase the dose gradually, till she arrived to twenty. The youngest I supplied with the lozenges of burnt sponge, as prepared by Mr. Shepherd, of Fleet-street, directing her to allow one gradually to dissolve under the tongue, night and morning; and I was assured of the perseverance of both, by the superintendence of a careful mother. The eldest girl bore an increase of the tincture to fifteen or sixteen drops without inconvenience; but on reaching twenty, she was obliged to desist awhile, on account of sickness, vertigo, and some disturbance of the bowels, all which, however, soon went off, without the assistance of medicine; and after about a week, she recommenced with a dose of twelve drops, which she increased to fifteen, eighteen, and eventually to twenty, without

much disorder, though occasionally obliged to desist a day or two. After having taken it about three weeks, the tumour was evidently softer, and its measure less; and at the expiration of two months it had nearly disappeared. She was desired to persevere another month—and now not any remains of it are perceptible, and her health is excellent. The youngest sister took the lozenges daily, and in less than a month her tumour was evidently less; but afterwards, it did not decrease so rapidly as that of her eldest sister's: and even now, three months from her commencing the lozenges, there is still left a little tumefaction, and a small indurated portion, about the size of a hazel nut.

“I have been in the habit of recommending the sponge lozenges very confidently, from observing their efficacy, if not in entirely removing the tumours, at least, in rendering them much softer, and materially lessening them; and in most cases, when wen first appears in young females, the use of them for a fortnight only, will cause its total disappearance. The cases related above, were of some years standing, and within the last three, had increased very rapidly. As the disease is common in this neighbourhood, I purpose giving the tincture of iodine a very fair trial; should the results be favourable, I may probably trouble you with them, if worth your notice, on some future occasion.”

Mr. Osborne, of Tunbridge, has increased the dose of the saturated tincture of iodine to sixty drops, twice a day, in a case of wen, without disordering the stomach; and Mr. Ives, of Market Lavington, near Devizes, has given it a fair trial in this disease, in both of which it was of no benefit; but the subjects were far advanced in life.

In young women, the saturated tincture of iodine, in the dose of twenty drops, twice a day, has been very successful in dispersing wenny and scrofulous tumours. In some cases of scrofula, the saturated tincture, in the same dose, in a decoction of Iceland moss, seemed to have acted like a charm, probably in consequence of the general health having been previously improved, by attending to the state of the stomach and bowels, as directed by Mr. Abernethy, whilst in other, where the preparatory treatment had been neglected, it failed to produce any beneficial effect; indeed, the digestion being bad at the time, the remedy disordered the stomach. To give a remedy a fair trial, the digestive organs should be put in a state of health, by the blue pill, a mild tonic, and proper diet, as directed in our Fifth and Sixth Numbers, under the head of Digestion, previously to its exhibition. A considerable quantity of iodine has been sent to a wholesale chemist, in the city of London, by a chemist at Glasgow, at a very low price, which is certainly very inferior in quality to the German iodine. A correspondent informs us, that the said chemist obtains it from coke. Part of it being only dissolved in alcohol, is a proof that it is not genuine.

HEAD-ACHE.—We have received a copy of a *popular Treatise, On the Prevention and Treatment of Primary and Secondary Head-Aches*, which the Author says, “is interspersed with the most useful remarks on these subjects, from the works of Abernethy,

Astley Cooper, Hamilton, and Wilson Philip. In the class of *primary* head-ache, the author enumerates several species; viz. from organic disease, from pimples, from cancer, from obstructed circulation of blood *in the head*, from superabundance of blood *in the head*, from passion, from great exertion of the mind in business, study, emotions, and from indulging in sleep, and the contrary. The class of *secondary* head-ache embraces seven species: viz. (1) head-ache from bile, and *disorders* of the liver and stomach; (2) from nervous debility, a Megrim, &c.; (3) from intemperance; (4) from gout and rheumatism; (5) from commencement of fever; (6) from syphilis; and, (7), from scrofula and consumption. This classification, to the ignorant, may appear very plausible; but to the medical practitioner, the object of the author will at once appear evident; for the species composing the class of primary head-ache, are as much symptomatic or sympathetic as those of the second, and beyond this imposing display no medical man, we presume, would go in search of information, in the author's book.

Of all popular works on medicine, no one, in our opinion, is more likely to prove injurious than one on head-ache, which directs the attention of the readers to sympathetic or symptomatic affections as *primary diseases*; for head-ache is very rarely a primary complaint, and is often a forerunner of very serious local mischief, or constitutional disturbance. We, however, need only notice the learned compiler's prescriptions, to convince our readers that the author is not a medical man, and, consequently, that his work is unworthy of their attention. Page 78. For periodical head-ache, the following draught is recommended, "to give *immediate* relief:"

Take of Senna Leaves, an ounce and a half;

Ginger Powder, a drachm;

Tincture of Rhubarb, half a drachm.—Mix.

The author, in compliment to his *medical* readers, has condescended to give this prescription also in Latin, of which the following is a correct copy:

R. Fol. Sennæ, ʒj.

Pulv. Zingib. ʒj.

Tinct. Rhei. ʒss. M. ut fiat haustus.

If a patient were to swallow an ounce and a half of senna leaves, or, as in the Latin formula, an ounce, with a drachm of ginger powder, we agree with the learned author, that the dose would soon cure the head-ache.

For the throbbing head-ache, the author recommends the following draught to be taken during the fit:

Take of Infusion of Valerian, one ounce;

Ammonia, a drachm and a half;

Tincture of Henbane, twenty drops;

Peppermint Water, a sufficient quantity to form a draught.

After taking a drachm and a half of ammonia, the fit no doubt would soon terminate. Throbbing pain is an indication of increased arterial action, or increased nervous excitement; in either of which, a drachm of ammonia (supposing the author means either the carbonate, or the liquor of ammonia) would produce most serious

mischief, probably either apoplexy, inflammation of the brain, or inflammation of the stomach. We shall notice one more of the learned author's prescriptions, merely to shew his *chemical* knowledge:

Take of Magnesia, twenty grains ;
Epsom Salt, two drachms ;
Carbonate of Potass, twenty-five grains ;
Extract of Liquorice, twenty grains ;
Peppermint Water, sufficient to form a draught.

The potass, by uniting with the sulphuric acid of the Epsom salt, will occasion a separation of magnesia, and the excess of the fixed air of the carbonate of potass will escape.

In a former number, we have noticed a very judicious publication on head-ache, by Mr. Farmer, of London. The additions the author has made to the new edition, which was lately published, and especially his chapter on Indigestion, we shall notice in our next number.

ADVERTISERS.—We are happy to understand that the Court of Examiners of Apothecaries' Hall, have at length come to the resolution of prosecuting the impudent class of advertisers of superior medical advice, whose indecent and ignorant addresses have induced foreigners to entertain a most despicable opinion of the medical profession of this country, and to whose artifices, or false promises, many thousands of ignorant invalids have fallen a most cruel prey. The charitable institutions of this metropolis for the poor, afflicted with disease, exhibit daily many melancholy instances of this infamous traffic, which, to the great disgrace of the legislature, and to the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Apothecaries' Company, has been openly, and, with respect to the profession, insolently carried on, with impunity. It has been a question with the Court of Examiners, if their power extended to those advertisers who style themselves Doctors, and to those who confine their trade to cases of surgery ; but, according to a high legal opinion they have taken, they have the power of prosecuting any unqualified man, who supplies a patient with medicine, whether the case be medical or surgical. A long list of names of advertisers has been presented to the court, all of which they intend to prosecute as vagabonds. We are also happy to find that they mean to extend the authority the country has given them, to advertisers of such nostrums which are likely to prove injurious, especially the poisonous ones, which are advertised as "perfectly innocent." We beg to recommend to their attention, the following case of a poor man :

"J. W. aged twenty-two, with a specific ulcer, attended with phymosis, extensive inflammation and tumefaction, and much fever, applied to a Doctor Jordan. The doctor having inspected the diseased part, most knowingly observed, "My good man, I advise you to get into an hospital." The man thanked him kindly for his advise, and wished him a good morning. The doctor, however, begged to remind him of the usual fee to a physician, viz. a guinea!! "A guinea, Sir!" said the man, "why you have not given me any medicine, and I understand your fee is only half a guinea, when you

take a patient under your care." "You are correct," replied the learned doctor; "come, come, I will cure you." The doctor then gave him a bottle of his balm of rakasiri, for which he charged him 7s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. for advice. This balsam is a powerful spirit (alcohol, with a little water), slightly flavoured with an essential oil!! The patient's fever increasing, and the local disease exhibiting an appearance of mortification, he luckily applied to a surgeon before he finished the bottle of ardent spirit, to which the doctor has given the fine imposing name of Balsam of Rakasiri. The Court of Examiners, on finding that the article does not contain any of the balsam of rakasiri, will, no doubt, notice this *honorable* part of his trade, as well as his *diploma*, and his qualifications to exercise the healing art. We beg also to introduce to them his brother, Dr. John Jordan, who, from the rank of distributor of hand-bills, has lately been raised to the dignity of M. D. by leaping, we suppose, over a broom-stick.

Another profoundly learned gentleman, a Doctor Friedeburgh, who has also had the good fortune to be suddenly raised to the same high dignity, probably in consequence of having been a servant in Doctor Jordan's "East London Medical Establishment," we find has lately started in Paternoster Row, as a *physician*!! The celebrated advertising Mr. Currie, who has lately returned to this country from the continent, now advertising under the name of Doctor Courtenay; a Mr. Goss, whose real name is Crucifix; and the proprietor of the Lock Dispensary in Charlotte-street; will no doubt meet with due attention from the College of Surgeons, and the Court of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Company. With some of the conscientious advertisers, it is a practice to demand a deposit of fifteen pounds, before they undertake the cure; and to induce them to comply with their terms, they alarm their minds with the idea of their maladies having a most dreadful tendency; indeed, by the false representations of one advertiser, we know two young gentlemen were driven to acts of violence.

OXALIC ACID.—Sirs, It seems almost to no purpose, that individuals protest against the unwarrantable and criminal mode that medicine is permitted to be vended to the public. Instance after instance occurs of its fatal effects; coroners, juries, and disinterested parties of all descriptions unite in reprobating the practice of *confiding to mere boys the responsible situation of dispensing drugs*; and plans and modes of preventing a recurrence are suggested, so simple and intelligible by the vender and buyer, that it comes upon us with additional indignation and astonishment when a similar case occurs. I do not intend to enter into particulars, which at first present themselves, because they must occur to every one; viz, the heavy and irretrievable loss sustained by the family of the deceased in all those cases—the heart-rending affliction to a wife and children, may be conceived by every person of feeling; but what makes that affliction doubly aggravating is, the thought which must often occur, that if it had not been for this criminally accidental circumstance, the party might have been yet alive. The fatal accident occurs in most cases from the contracted and narrow-minded system of some

petty apothecary, who, *to save himself the expense of maintaining a regularly bred assistant*, (some 60*l.* per annum), *employs a boy behind the counter*, of no education at all in the first instance, and who never heard the name of a drug mentioned, till he was called upon all at once to take upon himself the mixed calling of sweeping the shop and pavement, cleaning the windows and bottles, and at the intervals of these labours, dispensing to His Majesty's subjects medicines, upon which health or sickness, life or death, are to depend.

I do not advance this to you as a speculation, but I know it to be the fact; and although you only hear of the more aggravated cases which occur, yet there are numberless ones which never meet the eye, which happen from mistakes in the weights, &c. : for probably, Messrs. Editors, you may have been unfortunate enough in your own family to have had need of medical advice; and in perusing the prescriptions, you would observe, that the distinction of the figure which denotes a drachm, and that which means an ounce, are very slight. I have known the larger used for the smaller one, by accident. I will inform you what occurred in my own family two winters back. I had a fine little fellow seized with a sudden inflammation in the chest, and which affected his throat, called by the physician who attended him, "a croupy affection." A blister was ordered, and the apothecary, calling in the evening, left it, with orders how to apply it. I suggested that it might be as well to dust it over with powder of cantharides, as it might assist its drawing, to which he consented; and he also advised a small quantity of *sal prunella*, in powder, to be mixed in his drink, which was barley-water. As he was not going immediately home, he wrote with a pencil for both of these articles, and I sent the servant to his house for them. Now, Messrs. Editors, it will bear upon what I have stated above; she brought these two powders most diligently mixed together; and had I not providentially (I say it in the most unqualified sense of the word) been at home, my little boy had never seen the ensuing day; for he had left word that the white powder was to be dissolved in his drink; and the quantity of cantharides was so small, that it was only from my being in a small degree conversant with medicine, that I discovered the error. Now, Sirs, no young man, fitted for that situation, would have sent out such a powder, without knowing what it was intended for, or how to be applied. I could expatiate more upon this subject, and illumine you and your readers with some of the lights which are too suffered to shine out of these poison shops, but your work is too valuable to expect more indulgence than I have already requested; but I think every parent ought, in some degree, to become acquainted with common medicines, and then it is not likely they will require medical aid, except for diseases with which, of course, they ought not to interfere. It is not uncommon for the poorer classes to ask for a pennyworth of antimonial wine, for an emetic. Now a pennyworth depends upon the liberality of the dispenser; and my cook once received such an unsparing pennyworth, that I am sure she will never ask for quite so much again, as long as she lives; and that, too,

was dispensed by one of these ignoramuses. But I am led from my object. As several modes of preventing a recurrence of such fatal errors have been at different times advanced, but most of them concluding with recommending that the oxalic acid be coloured, or that poison be written on the parcel, I would suggest, Messrs. Editors, a far safer one, and that is, that the owner of the shop should lock up in a cupboard, in his shop, all articles liable to such mistakes; arsenic, which has been given as powder cream of tartar, corrosive sublimate, opium, and oxalic acid; and let him, and him alone, keep the key. As for writing poison upon them, I wish Mr. Surgeon Hullock would inform us how he knows that we may depend upon such a thing being done; and how is it likely that poison will be written upon a parcel which is sold for Epsom salts, and very often sold by urehins who cannot write at all? As to colouring it, the idea is quite absurd; for the acid is a destroyer of almost all colour, and is almost always bought for that purpose—that is, to clean boot-tops. The mode I have mentioned is the only sure one; and I do not believe that the salt was ever yet sold in error, *by any one competent to vend medicines generally*—and therefore it ought to be punishable; and I trust the public may yet be informed where the last stated article was sold, that the party may suffer for their ignorance and parsimony.

I am, your constant reader,

W.

The serious accidents which have lately occurred, in consequence of taking the oxalic acid, by mistake, for the Epsom salt, are not to be attributed solely to the ignorance or carelessness of assistants or apprentices, employed in the shops of retail chemists, druggists, or apothecaries; for, in one case, the acid was picked up in the street by a child, whose father took it, supposing it to be the Epsom salt. Some of the accidents have happened from the carelessness of those who purchased the acid, for the purpose of cleaning the tops of boots, in leaving the parcel within the reach of the servants. In the last melancholy instance of the acid being taken for the Epsom salt, it does not appear that it was sold by mistake for that article. Had, therefore, the venders of the acid written the name of it, or the word "*poison*," as proposed by Surgeon Hullock, those accidents would most probably not have occurred. With all respectable retail chemists, it is a practice never to allow a thing to go out of the shop, without its name being written or pasted on it; and where this is an uniform rule, (as at the Medical Hall, in Piccadilly), those who put up the article are more likely to be particular in seeing that the envelope contains the right drug. Many accidents having happened in consequence of the alterations that have been made in the names of drugs, by the London, Edinburgh, and Dublin Colleges, we ordered the bottles, drawers, &c. at the Medical Hall, to be labelled in English, to avoid mistakes; and no person is allowed to compound medicines, or serve customers, who is not acquainted with all the names in Latin and English; and we have never heard of the smallest mistake being made there.

Chemists keep the oxalic acid with the re-agents, and not, like druggists, with the pharmaceutical preparations; and very few apothecaries sell the article. The suggestion of W., to keep all poisons in a separate closet, is the best plan for preventing mistake; and if it were titled, in large letters, on the front, POISONS, the purchaser would see that the article he wanted is a poison. This plan will be adopted at the Medical Hall, and we have no doubt, by chemists in general. The best popular method of distinguishing the oxalic acid from the Epsom salt, is to add a little carbonate of soda, carbonate of potass, or carbonate of ammonia, to a solution of the article; if an effervescence ensues, it is evident that it is an acid, and not Epsom salt; for, in a solution of the latter, no effervescence follows the addition of either of the above carbonates; but a white powder is precipitated, which is carbonate of magnesia. The oxalic acid having a great attraction for iron and silver; a silver spoon, or an iron knife, after being immersed in it, soon becomes tarnished, and emits an offensive odour. This simple plan of ascertaining a solution of oxalic acid from that of Epsom salt, is much recommended by a correspondent, under the signature of "*Juvenis*."

The most efficacious and speedy means of counteracting the pernicious operation of the acid on the stomach, is to convey into the stomach, as soon as possible, either the subcarbonate of potass, (salt of wormwood), subcarbonate of soda, (prepared natron), magnesia, or a strong solution of soap, in such quantity, as to neutralize the acid, or till the pain in the stomach, resembling the heart-burn, ceases. The first dose of either of the subcarbonates, should not be less than a large tea-spoonful, dissolved in half a pint of water. A small tea-spoonful may afterwards be given every half hour, till the patient ceases to bring up an acid. Twenty or thirty grains of ipecacuanha powder may be administered, to promote vomiting.

BUCHU LEAVES.—Mr. Ives, a scientific surgeon of Market Lavington, informs us that he has found the infusion of these leaves to succeed in a case of gravel, of long standing. Dr. Baruh, an eminent physician of London, has prescribed the saturated tincture and infusion of them, with great success, in cases of irritative whites, and irritation of the bladder, urethra, and rectum; and Mr. Griffiths, an experienced surgeon of Newington, has found them much more efficacious in the cure of specific inflammation of the urethra, and irritative piles, than the cubebs, or any other medicine. The saturated tincture of these leaves, in the dose of two tea-spoonful twice a day, in a glass of water, has also proved very beneficial in cases of indigestion, from morbid irritability of the stomach, and in allaying the general nervous excitability of gouty and rheumatic subjects.

MALT LIQUOR.—Many of our readers having frequently requested us to give directions for brewing good family ale, we have lately paid some attention to the process, in order to ascertain the most simple method of making a wholesome beverage. Ale is a wine made by fermenting a solution of the saccharine matter of malt,

and impregnating it with the essential oil and bitter quality of the hop, to prevent its advancing to the acetous fermentation. A bushel and three-quarters of malt (ground), and a pound of hops are sufficient to make eighteen gallons of good family ale. That the saccharine matter of the malt may be extracted by infusion, without the farina, the temperature of the water should not exceed 155 or 160 Fahrenheit's thermometer*. The quantity of water should be poured on the malt as speedily as possible, and the whole being well mixed together by active stirring, the vessel should be closely covered over for an hour; if the weather be cold, for an hour and a half. If hard water be employed, it should be boiled, and the temperature allowed, by exposure to the atmosphere, to fall to 155 or 160 degrees Farh.; but if rain water is used, it may be added to the malt as soon as it arrives to 155 degrees. During the time this process is going on, the hops should be infused in a close vessel, in as much boiling water as will cover them, for two hours. The liquor may then be squeezed out and kept closely covered.

The hops should then be boiled for about ten minutes, in as much again of water as that obtained from the infused hop; and the strained liquor, when cold, may be added, with the infusion, to the wort, when it has fallen to the temperature of 70. The object of infusing the hop in a close vessel, previously to boiling, is to preserve the essential oil of the hop, which renders it more sound, and, at the same time, more wholesome. A pint of good thick yeast should be well stirred in the mixture of wort and hops, and covered over in a place of the temperature of 65 Farh.; and when the fermentation is completed, the liquor may be drawn off to a clean cask, previously rinsed with boiling water. When the slow fermentation which will ensue has ceased, the cask should be loosely bunged for two days, when, if the liquor be quiet, the bung may be properly fastened. The pale malt is the best, because, when highly dried, it does not afford so much saccharine matter. If the malt be new,

* If boiling water, or water heated to 185 degrees of temperature, be employed, as recommended by some authors, a quantity of farina will be extracted with the saccharine matter, which will render it thick; and by preventing a proper fermentation, will make it very unwholesome. Ale, when thick, is very difficult of digestion; and in weakly or irritable stomachs, rapidly runs into the acetous fermentation; and the acid and gas, which are the consequences, no doubt, act very perniciously on the coats of the stomach. Home-made beer generally contains a great quantity of mucilage and saccharine matter, which some consider as evidence of strength; whilst the ale of brewers, in consequence of having been well fermented, and the infusion of the malt properly made, is entirely free from mucilage, and on this account, much more wholesome than home-made ale, provided it does not contain such powerful poisons as the vomit nut, cocculus Indicus, &c.; which, although seldom employed in medicine, are imported in considerable quantities into this country.

it should be exposed to the air, in a dry room, for two days previously to its being used; but if it be old, it may be used twelve or twenty hours after it is ground. The great difference in the flavour of ale, made by different brewers in town and country, appears to arise from their employing different species of the hop.

In Kent, several species of the hop are cultivated. The one termed the *bastard ever-black bind*, on account of its being the most hardy, is generally preferred by the grower. This species is very bitter, and affords less of the essential oil, or aroma, in which, as observed before, the stomachic property and preservative power of the hop reside; indeed, without it, the bitter is much too intense for continued use; and it is not unlikely that it was the effect of this species of hop, that induced some writers, in the reign of Queen Anne, to pronounce the hop a poison; for the aroma of the hop, no doubt, corrects the bitter quality of it. The Worcestershire hops are less bitter than the Kent, and impart to beer a more grateful aromatic flavour. In that county, the hop varies very much in the bitter principle, and in aroma, from soil and situation. The species we have found to yield the greatest quantity of aroma, and the most wholesome bitter principle, is termed the *Mathon white hop*. The beer made with it is not only more pleasant to the palate, but certainly, instead of disordering the stomach, seems to promote digestion. A clergyman, of Herefordshire, informs us, that he was cured of a most distressing affection of the stomach, of long standing, (indigestion), by adopting this hop in making ale, and that too, after the beer, made with the other species, evidently increased his sufferings. We believe the *Mathon white hop* is sold only by Mr. Butler, herbalist, of Covent Garden, a necessary piece of information, because we believe the Kent *bastard ever-black bind* is generally sold in the metropolis for brewing.

COMPARATIVE NUTRITIVE PROPERTIES OF FOOD.—

A very interesting report of this subject was lately presented to the French Minister of the Interior, by Messrs. Percy and Vauquelin, two members of the Institute; the result of their experiments is, viz.

In bread, every 100 lbs. weight are found to contain 80 lbs. of nutritious matter.—Butcher's meat, averaging the various sorts, 35 lbs. in the 100 lbs.—French beans, 92 lbs. in 100 lbs.—Broad beans, 89 lbs. in 100 lbs.—Peas, 93 lbs. in 100 lbs.—Lentiles, 94 lbs. in 100 lbs.—Greens and turnips, which are the most aqueous of our vegetables used for domestic purposes, furnish only 8 lbs. of solid nutritious substance in 100 lbs.—Carrots, 14 lbs. in 100 lbs.; and what is very remarkable, as being in opposition to the hitherto acknowledged theory, 100 lbs. of potatoes only yield 25 lbs. of substance.—1 lb. of good bread is equal to $2\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. or 3 lbs. of best potatoes; and 75 lbs. bread, and 30 lbs. meal, is equal to 300 lbs. of potatoes; or, to go more into detail, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. bread, and 5 oz. meat, are equal to 3 lbs. of potatoes.—1 lb. of potatoes is equal to 4 lbs. of cabbage, and 3 lbs. of turnips; but 1 lb. of rice, broad beans, or French beans, in grain, is equal to 3 lbs. of potatoes.

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OF THE LATE DR. MARCET.

THIS eminent physician, was a native of Geneva, in Switzerland, and in that country (so justly distinguished for a manly spirit of independence, correct morals, and the encouragement of science and liberal education) he first received his literary accomplishments in the principles of general knowledge and polite learning. In the year 1793 he arrived in this country, where, from his admiration of its laws and manners, he was induced to become an Englishman, and here he imbibed all the good qualities of our national character, without the narrow prejudices which disgrace some of our institutions. In the year 1794, he entered as a student at Edinburgh, which formed the period of the commencement of his professional studies. During his residence there, he was indefatigable in engrafting on the original liberal and candid principles of his early education the true medical information, from (as he conceived) the fountain head of the Æsculapian stream. In the spring of 1797, after taking the degree of M. D., he returned to London; but although he had prosecuted his studies with great ardour, under the first teachers in Europe, and obtained a diploma, authorizing him to exercise the healing art in *any part* of his Majesty's dominions; instead of entering on practice, he attended the lectures of the most eminent teachers of chemistry, anatomy, pathology, &c. &c. and became a pupil of the late Dr. Saunders, at Guy's Hospital, and of the late Dr. Willan, at the Carey Street Dispensary. It has been observed, that in consequence of the dogmatical manner in which the Edinburgh lecturers on different departments of medicine speak of the effects of remedies, the results of their experiments, &c. &c. the pupils, after attending two or three courses, fancy that they are really acquainted with the causes and nature of diseases, and the artillery by which *all* diseases may be effectually subdued; and supposing they require only a diploma to complete the physician, when they are in possession of it, the only matter of astonishment or mystery to them is, that the patient should die under their care. Not so, however, with Dr. Marcet; for the attention he had paid to the effects of medicine at the Royal Infirmary, convinced him, that notwithstanding the dogmatism of *some* teachers, medicine was in its infancy, and that the most experienced physician in full practice was, in fact, only a learner. After residing two years in London, the principal part of which he devoted to lectures, the practice of the hospitals, and the philosophical societies, he found it necessary to obtain from the London College of Physicians, a licence to practise medicine within the limits of their jurisdiction, notwithstanding his Edinburgh diploma authorized him to do it in *any part* of his Majesty's dominions. The Doctor, not being a native of the country, thought it would not become him to oppose such

inconsistency, if not imposition, and although he detested any thing that even bordered on illiberality or selfishness, or that had a tendency to check the progress of science, he submitted to an examination at the College of Physicians (composed chiefly of graduates of the English Universities), and to receive from them a licence to exercise his professional talents in SIMPLE cases of disease; although in respect to competency to exercise the art, they were far, very far from being superior to him, and for this insulting licence, he was required to pay about eighty pounds, a very serious sum to those foreigners who have received a medical education in their own countries, for generally speaking, they are very poor. The Doctor, having been strictly examined as to his professional acquirements, and paid for a diploma at Edinburgh, giving him the liberty to practise in any part of the United Kingdom, thought it extraordinary that he should be subjected to another examination, and obliged to pay so large a sum for a licence. If the University of Edinburgh do not think proper to defend their graduates in claiming the right to practise in any part of his Majesty's dominions, as specified in their diploma, (which one of the conditions of the Union of the two countries authorizes the University to grant), they should except the limits of the jurisdiction of the London College of Physicians, or indeed the whole of England, for, according to college laws, a physician practising in any part of this island, without a licence from the College, may be prosecuted as a vagabond, and subjected to exercise his body on the tread mill with his diploma in his pocket. Although, according to the conditions of the Union, no other licence is necessary than a diploma from a Scotch university, the graduates of Edinburgh, the first medical school in the United Kingdom, are compelled, on taking up their residence in this metropolis, to submit to a degradation very mortifying to men of science and generous minds, and insulting to the University itself.

The Doctor having succeeded in obtaining the appointment of physician to the City dispensary, took up his residence in its neighbourhood. He soon afterwards married the daughter of Mr. Haldeman, a very respectable and opulent merchant of the city of London. Although this lady possessed the means of rendering the Doctor as independent in circumstances as he was in mind, he was solely influenced in his choice of a companion for life by the riches of her mind. Miss Haldeman, instead of wasting her time in reading novels and romances, or by attending to fashions, idle visits, and the art of coquetry, employed all her leisure hours in philosophical pursuits. Chemistry had been her favourite study, and, at the time of her marriage, she was as well acquainted with the state of this interesting science as the Doctor himself, although it had been his favourite study. To the pen of this lady we are indebted for the best rudimental work on philosophical chemistry that has appeared in this country, viz. *Conversations on Chemistry*. Dr. Marcet having thus fortunately secured, not only domestic comfort, but a most valuable assistant in exploring the field of science, being closely connected by marriage and friendship with many families of respectability, resolved to be naturalized, which was afterwards soon accomplished by act of parliament. On the resignation of the appointment of physician to Guy's Hospital, by the late Dr. Harvey, Dr. Marcet, by the solicitation of his late teacher, Dr. Saunders, and the other medical officers, who

had had opportunities to form an opinion of his professional abilities and his benevolent disposition, became a candidate, and such was the high estimation in which he was held among the governors, that he was elected by a large majority.

The good fortune of this deserving individual was now complete. Most happily and congenially situated in domestic life, and ranking high as a physician in public opinion, he removed his residence from the city to Russell Square, with the view of enjoying the society of men of talents and scientific attainments in the neighbourhood, of whom the late Sir Samuel Romilly was one. The Doctor continued for many years to discharge his duty conscientiously at Guy's Hospital, which his colleagues allow he did with distinguished talent and great propriety, both as a clinical physician and as a lecturer. In the course of his private practice, he shewed a mind superior to the artifices which disgrace too many of the physicians of London. However zealous of practice, from a desire to do good more than to accumulate wealth, he had no ambition to court popularity, or desire to bask in the sunshine of royalty, the latter of which, as a foreigner, he might have easily obtained.

Doctor Marcet contributed liberally to the periodical works connected with medicine, and all, who have read his communications, that are competent to judge of their real merits, must admit that they exhibit proofs of great ingenuity, sound judgment, accurate observation, just deduction, and a sincere desire to promote medical science for the good of mankind. The periodical works on medicine are too often filled with common-place and hacknied subjects, with a mere semblance of merit from some new form, or dress, or fine sounding words. The papers of Dr. Marcet, on the contrary, are marked by originality, precision, clear thinking, and valuable truths. The Doctor's chemical communications embrace the following interesting topics: Analyses of the waters of the Dead Sea; of the River Jordan; of the mineral springs of Brighton and the Isle of Wight; of the dropsical fluids; experiments proving the existence of prussic acid in the urine, under certain circumstances; an account of the effects of a large quantity of laudanum taken internally, and the means used to counteract its fatal effects; on the use of nitrate of silver, in detecting small quantities of arsenic; remarks on sulphuret of carbon, and on the production of coal by means of that article. Some of these communications appear in the *Philosophical Transactions*. To these contributions may be added the following communications, of equal value to the practitioner, viz. *Dissertation on the oxyd of bismuth*; a case of hydrophobia; an account of a species of erythema. His last work, on the analysis, &c. of human calculi, has been translated into all the languages of Europe, by physicians of the first respectability in the different countries, and it will transmit his name to the latest posterity, as an able physician and accurate chemist.

But however creditable the doctor's communications were to him, and valuable to the profession, his laudable zeal in bringing forward the exertions and talents of others in the extensive field of science and improvement, was no less so. He has, during his medical career, shewn himself a most ardent promoter of useful public institutions, especially those more immediately connected with his profession. It is well known, that it was chiefly to him and the late Dr. Yelloly, that the Medical and

Chirurgical Society of London owes its formation, a body, which, for a few years, promised to contribute greatly to the improvement and respectability of the profession. The volumes of the Transactions of this Society, which have been published within the last two years, clearly show that Dr. Marcet, although the chief founder of it, has had little influence in the selection of papers for publication. The death of a member, whose name added to its respectability, and who was so capable of communicating valuable matter, together with the late great loss in the literary support and countenance of Dr. Granville, will, we suspect, be seriously felt by those members of the council, whose office consists in selecting the most valuable papers for publication.

Dr. Marcet was a leading member of the Royal Society, and for some years had been one of the council. He was also a member of the Geological Society of London. In all these associations, to which he was introduced by that which should be the only passport to all *scientific* societies, viz. his own merit, science, and extensive information, his talents, liberality, and unassuming conduct, gave him a just claim to that high distinction, which, to the honour of our country, he enjoyed. In such estimation were the Doctor's abilities held in his native city, that he was elected honorary professor of chemistry, &c. The Doctor's death, being very sudden, was attributed to apoplexy; but there was no appearance, on dissection, confirmatory of that supposition, or in any part of the body, to account for his dissolution. Having experienced a spasmodic affection of the stomach, some time previously to his death, and having been subject to a spasmodic affection of the heart, some of his medical friends have attributed his death to irregular gout attacking a vital part.

The editor of "Authentic Memoirs of eminent Physicians and Surgeons of Great Britain," prefaces his sketch of Dr. Marcet, with the following just remark:—"Though medicine is properly a branch of philosophy, it is seldom cultivated by the professors of the healing art. The bustle and hurry of professional life does not suit the calm contemplative mind of the philosopher. The present respectable individual, however, is a rare exception to this, for he unites to a philosophical turn of thinking, and deep research, much professional knowledge, experience, and observation."

EMETICS. — Doctor Sutton, of Greenwich, has published the following remarks on the means of limiting the operation of an emetic to the stomach.—"Antimonial emetics (emetic tartar, &c.) almost uniformly act upon the bowels as well as the stomach; and we cannot always assure ourselves that ipecacuanha will operate *solely* by exciting vomiting. I have frequently, however, met with cases which rendered the operation of a vomit only desirable upon the stomach, and when I have wished to avoid its extending its effects to the intestines, so as to cause looseness. Dr. Sydenham had an idea that a certain sort of diarrhoea was caused by an emetic, but his emetics were antimonials. It would have best answered his intention, if he could have relied on a vomit which would confine its operation to the act of exciting vomiting only. Several circumstances have come under my observation, which clearly assured me that opium, or preparations from it in small quantities, did not hinder the operation of an emetic. Later observations have rather convinced me that it may render an emetic of ipecacuanha upon the whole more severe, as it prevents the latter from running

off by the intestines. In some cases I have found that a moderate dose of ipecacuanha will not excite vomiting, which, when joined with opium, will answer the intention; and for this purpose I have often joined it with emetics of ipecacuanha. Thus, when I wish a more limited operation of an emetic to the stomach, I recommend five or six drops of tincture of opium in an emetic draught, and a quarter of a grain in a powder, with such a dose of ipecacuanha or its preparation, as is judged fit for an adult, and in proportion to younger persons. And when I wish a very moderate operation of an emetic, I give a smaller quantity of ipecacuanha with the opium, and have generally been satisfied with the result."

In most cases of acute or even chronic diseases, the operation of an emetic substance on the intestines is desirable. In inflammatory fevers particularly, an emetic medicine always acts more beneficially when it excites diarrhoea. In the last stage of typhus fever, where the strength of the patient is much reduced, and in some cases of nervous asthma in elderly subjects, attended with œdematous swellings of the legs, or effusion of serum in the chest or belly; and in the last stage of pulmonary consumption, it may be desirable to "limit the operation of an emetic to the stomach." Opium may prevent its disturbing the intestines, but that it will also promote vomiting, is contrary to our own experience. Opium does not obviate the aperient effects of an emetic by preventing the emetic article passing into the duodenum; but by diminishing the irritability of the intestines, and by producing the same effect on the stomach, instead of promoting the operation of an emetic, either of an antimonial preparation, ipecacuanha, or any other emetic article, it absolutely diminishes it, and this fact, we believe, is well known to every apothecary. Opium, given with an emetic dose of tartarized antimony or ipecacuanha, by diminishing the sympathy between the stomach and the diaphragm, abdominal muscles, &c. often occasions the most distressing nausea, the stomach not having the power, without their aid, to eject its contents*. In inflammatory fevers, opium, by disturbing the brain, (which in such cases it never fails to do), may occasion inflammation of that organ, and this effect we have observed to follow the use of Dover's powders, which is a composition of opium and ipecacuanha.

SUICIDE.—Dr. Falret, (whose work on suicide we quoted when we noticed the lamentable case of the late Marquis of Londonderry) after commenting on the opinions of various writers respecting "the seat of suicide," or on what derangement it depends, asserts, 1st, That it depends no more upon affections of the abdominal organs than on other disorders: 2d, that it can only have a place in those organs which are engaged in the intellectual and moral faculties: 3d, that it very rarely happens that the affections of the other viscera can be the remote cause; consequently that the brain is always primarily disordered, and is the source of the affection." The Doctor proceeds next to display

* A full dose of ipecacuanha or emetic tartar, by bringing these muscles into action, operates more mildly than a small dose, which will not excite vomiting without the efforts of the patient.

the order and succession of the symptoms of suicide, by means of the detail of various cases, which at the same time evinces the treatment that was employed, which appears to be very judicious. He afterwards enters upon the particular consideration of the method of cure. After some observations respecting the practice of Awenbrugger and Leroy, who, like the liver-doctors of this country, recommend remedies to be directed to the liver and spleen, Dr. F. very properly observes, the curative indications ought to be taken from the symptoms indicating the state of the circulation in the brain, and the means of cure directed to its condition. The pain and uneasiness in the head, the want of rest, the state of the vessels of the brain, as evident by the pulsation of the carotid arteries, and the character of the eyes; the sensation of constriction and tension, and the appearances observed on dissection, evince the propriety of frequent abstraction of blood, especially in the immediate vicinity of the brain. Exercise and manual occupations, especially in the open air; active amusements; horseback exercise and hunting; the visiting of watering places and frequented promenades, during a dry state of the atmosphere; gentle purgatives, combined with sedatives; the exhibition of an emetic in some cases; blisters, setons, dry cupping, and derivative applications to the nape of the neck, or the region of the stomach; antispasmodics, sedatives, and after depletion has been largely employed, tonics, as the Peruvian bark, &c. are severally recommended by the Doctor. He afterwards treats of the remedial agents which ought to be directed more immediately to the brain itself; these chiefly consist of moral and intellectual means, which must be varied according to the circumstances of the case, the disposition of the patient, and the exciting causes. Amongst the remarks which are offered respecting the *means of repression*, the cold affusion, the shower bath, and cold applications to the head, especially in delirious suicide, deserve attention. The preservative plan of treatment comprehends, in addition to the agents we have enumerated, the removal, as far as it may be accomplished, of the occasional causes.

The Doctor considers suicide too exclusively as a disease, and more especially as the result of a morbid state of the vessels of the brain, and its membranes. That it is frequently a disease, and the result of vascular disorder in those situations, will be readily granted; but that it is essentially and exclusively such, admits of great doubt. It ought to be considered, that the causes, and the intellectual and moral phenomena which lead, in either a distant or more immediate manner, to the adoption of ideas concerned in the production of self-destruction, cannot be shewn to be the result of vascular action, or diseased structure in the brain; although, by means of the intimate relation existing between the mental and corporeal operations, they often lead to such a derangement. On the other hand, it ought to be admitted, and the eyes of the practitioner ought to be open to the fact, that incessant application to study, to business, to political events, to the interests and views of political parties, to the anxious discharge of public duties, or to the support of public measures, in addition to numerous causes, will so far overturn the equilibrium of the circulation as to occasion a degree of plenitude of the vessels of the brain, or its membranes, verging on inflammation. Such a condition of this organ may betray itself by a slight delirium, or

mental alienation, by slight and irritative nervous fever, or by a burning head-ache, with little other disturbance of the system; and it may evince itself by a peculiarity of manner, by the unusual direction of the ideas, or by the state of the temper. If, during this condition of disorder, the ideas should be led to self-destruction; or if any circumstance, whether domestic or public, should occur, which, by exciting the temper or affections, may suddenly increase the organic derangement, as well as the subsequent resolution, suicide may be the consequence: or if, either after or before the particular class of ideas prompting to a violent death has been induced, the individual should be placed in a state of comparative inactivity, and his opinions be allowed to flow in that direction most likely to suggest or to confirm the idea of suicide; the event, although more maturely contemplated, will not be the less certainly accomplished.

Suicide, viewed in this direction, the only one in which it can with propriety be considered as an organic disease, may become the lot of the strongest and most accomplished minds: it is under these latter circumstances, like other mental alienations, the result of vascular derangement in an organ, which holds a close relation to the state of the mental and moral operations. We cannot, therefore, be surprised when we perceive individuals, subjected to the most important duties and undertakings, as well as anxieties, to suffer in that organ which becomes the medium or instrument of such harassing operations; and that the consequences resulting from them both to the organ itself, and to the faculties related to it, should be exactly those which such causes are most likely, both from theory and from experience, to produce. In proof of these positions, we have only to adduce those distressing instances of suicide which have, within these few years, occurred in this country.

The prevailing opinion as to the influence of climate in producing a disposition to suicide, Dr. Falret considers entitled to little or no credit. The climate of the North of Europe, he observes, is much less agreeable than that of England, and yet an indifference as to life is less frequent there than in this country. The Dutch live under physical conditions nearly similar to the English, and yet suicide is much less frequent among them. Cabanis says, that autumn, especially when a humid cold and variable state of the atmosphere, and especially when preceded by a warm dry summer, is more fertile in voluntary deaths, than any other period of the year. In England, suicides were formerly more common in the month of November; but of late years, this has not been the case, which some attribute to the air being more free from vapours, in consequence of the draining of the marshy land.

The almost total disappearance of ague in this country, in consequence of the draining of marshy land, shews that the air has been rendered more salubrious by it. Dr. Falret denies the truth of the assertion made by Dr. Burrows, that suicide is less frequent in England than in France. He attributes the frequency of it in this country, to the number and enthusiasm of religious sects, political commotions, the range given to social passions, the hazards and losses in mercantile speculations, the indolence resulting from wealth, habits of dissipation, the importance attached to public opinion; to which he might have

added, the ruinous expence attending an appeal to the laws, and the uncertainty of the result, or the success of villany, which the legal sophistry of the day allows, under the guidance of unprincipled pettifoggers, and the sanction of an impudent barrister, whose knowledge does not extend beyond the chicanery of the law, and who is, in fact, as devoid of generous and honourable feelings as the attorney and his wretched client, who have no other object in view than to rob or entrap the defendant. Many thousands of honest tradesmen have been ruined or driven mad by the protection which the sophistry of some courts, (where *law* is in opposition to *justice*) affords to villany. We leave this subject to Mr. Cullen, who has, no doubt, the power of detecting villany from honesty, and who will, no doubt, treat it with *impartiality* in his announced dissertation on the duties of an arbitrator. After giving an excellent description of the phenomena which precede the various kinds of violent death, Dr. F. considers how far the commission of it may be regarded as an act of courage. This chapter, he concludes, in the words of Montaigne, that it is more courageous to endure ills or misfortunes than to run from them.

TUMOUR.—M. Dagorn, a French surgeon, has published an account of some extraordinary large tumours of the steatomatous kind, arising from the trunk of a female about eighteen years of age, the largest of which, he says, weighed forty-six pounds!! The following is a translation of his description of them:

“The subject, Emilie Seve, weighed 167 pounds, although somewhat lean, and of an ordinary stature. The posterior surface of the trunk, towards the nape of the neck, presented two tumours, eight inches long and three broad, uneven and covered with small whitish spots. A third, very small round and soft, was situated on the back part of the right arm, near the arm-pit; the fourth, which arose from beneath the inferior angle of the right blade bone, was one foot three inches long, and six broad; the fifth was beneath the insertion of the preceding, and was six inches long and five broad; the sixth was larger than a man's head, and was situated at the external part of the right hip bone; the seventh was smaller, and seated above the trochanter of the same side; and the eighth had its origin at the left side, and reached as low as the calf of the leg, being two feet long, and three feet one inch round its base. All these tumours were of the steatomatous species, soft, uneven, of a loose cellular tissue, and entirely isolated from the internal organs and muscles.” M. Dagorn being satisfied that the disease was confined to the integuments and cellular tissue, determined on removing the larger by the knee. The operation was performed by M. Dagorn on the 20th of July, 1819, in presence of several physicians. The largest tumour was removed by making two flaps, and from the extent of the wound and the flaccid state of the skin, the twisted suture was employed. The tumour weighed 46 pounds; the integuments were very thin, and the cells filled with transparent serum, mixed with yellowish fatty flakes. From the summit to the base of the tumour the trunks of an artery and vein were visible, which ramified over the surface and into the substance of the tumour.

The wound healed in the course of two months and six days, after which the other tumours, which had remained stationary, increased con-

siderably. Some of the *great* surgeons of London and of France seem determined to vie with each other in extraordinary exploits. A little time since, Sir A. Cooper published a case of tumour, weighing about twenty-six pounds, which he successfully removed; M. Dagorn, determined to outdo Sir Astley, has removed one weighing forty-six pounds. A surgeon of Paris some months ago published a case of cancer of the breast, which he says he found to be so connected with the pericardium that to ensure the success of the operation, he removed part of the ribs, and the diseased portion of the pericardium, so as to expose the heart! The operation, he states, proved successful. Sir Astley Cooper, afterwards, applied a ligature to the descending aorta of an in-patient of St. Thomas's Hospital. The operation was, of course, tedious, most painful, and we may add, *of course*, unsuccessful. The case was published in all the journals of Europe, and will, no doubt, transmit the name of Sir Astley Cooper, Baronet and *Surgeon*, to the latest posterity, who will be more at liberty than we are to speak of its propriety or necessity in applicable terms. Had the operation been performed by ourselves, we should have been assailed by both the liberal Colleges, and accused of little less than murder in all the journals of London. In the hospitals of this country an operation, however simple, is never performed without the consent of the patient; but in France, where the institutions are supported by the government, and the medical officers receive a salary for their attendance, the consent of the patient is not even thought of. He is ordered to the theatre, without knowing the nature of the operation, or the chance of its success; and in general, placing implicit confidence in the skill and honesty of his surgeon, he cheerfully submits to his decision.

Our correspondent at Vienna, who is well acquainted with French medicine, observes that "the reports of the faculty of France, of the effects of medicine, &c. are entitled to little credit; and that if we believe one-twentieth part of what they assert, we give them credit for too much. If a French practitioner dreams of an extraordinary cure, operation, or experiment, he will immediately publish it as a fact, and the editors of the English journals, who are partial to the marvellous, will assist them in spreading their fame throughout Europe and North America." The English medical journals were never conducted by more sober or scientific characters than they are at the present day, and when our correspondent has read the recent reports of French medicine, and their analyses of French medical works, he will be convinced that English practitioners are capable of distinguishing dreams from facts, or sound theories from flights of fancy.

GANGRENE.—Mr. Janson, Surgeon-in-Chief of the Grand Hotel-Dieu, at Lyons, has derived great advantage from the use of opium, internally, in numerous cases of gangrene of the lower extremities, which occurred in his practice in the course of the years 1818, 1819, and 1820. The gangrene continued its ravages so long as the pain existed in the affected limb, whilst the inflammatory circle began to form, when the patients enjoyed some hours sleep by the aid of opium. Opium was a favourite auxiliary remedy in cases of gangrene in the extremities, with the late Mr. Pott, since whose time it has been very generally employed in such cases by the surgeons of this country.

THE BARCELONA FEVER.—About two months ago Dr. François read to a meeting of the Royal Academy of Medicine, a memoir on the different modes of treatment adopted in the fever at Barcelona. Blood-letting, which had unquestionably proved very beneficial in the yellow fever of the Antilles and of the continent of America, appeared to be uniformly hurtful in the fever of Spain. A tonic and derivative treatment succeeded the best. The sulphate of Peruvian bark, and the application of moxa to the lumbar region, seemed to merit a preference; but they could not be made use of in a sufficiently great number of patients, although they were, nevertheless, attended with fortunate results.

SULPHATE OF PERUVIAN BARK.—M. Dupré, officer of health at Cerisiers, has published some observations on the exhibition of sulphate of Peruvian bark, in the treatment of several diseases, especially *tic douloureux* and *ague*. To illustrate the specific effects of this remedy, M. Dupré has published the following cases: A man, aged sixty-four years, at the commencement of May, 1822, was attacked with tertian *ague*. At the invasion of the second paroxysm, he was seized with a violent pain in the face, evidently *tic douloureux*. In the interval between the third and fourth paroxysms, M. Dupré administered the sulphate of Peruvian bark, in the dose of twelve grains, dissolved in orange flower water with gum Arabic. This potion was divided into four doses, which the patient took every four hours before the paroxysm, which was shorter and less severe; the pain in the face also became more supportable. A second dose, similarly administered, entirely suppressed both the fever and *tic douloureux*. In order to prevent a relapse, a few grains only of the preparation were exhibited during four days.

The second case is *tic douloureux*, situated in the back part of the thigh. The subject of this case was thirty-three years of age, of a sanguine temperament. He was attacked, without any apparent cause, on the 6th of April, 1822, with a very intense pain, occupying the posterior part of the thigh, extending to the region of the sacrum, to the sciatic notch, with great stiffness of the muscles of the hinder part of the leg. The pain was increased by the least pressure, and the limb could not be moved. The pain came on in daily paroxysms. Local and general bleeding, baths, issues, friction with æther, opium, and narcotic plants, were used, but without success. He was then put, for three days, upon a treatment consisting of the warm baths, laxative clysters, and a spare diet; and on the 17th of May, M. Dupré commenced with the sulphate of Peruvian bark, which was administered in the dose of nine grains a-day, dissolved as above. This was continued for eight days, when the patient was perfectly cured.

M. Dupré's next case is that of a female, aged fifty-two years, who was attacked with typhus fever. On the twelfth day of the disease, the symptoms were as follow: Countenance pale, features changed, look fixed, anxious; pulse scarcely perceptible; tongue black, dry, with inability of putting it out of the mouth; the whole internal surface of the mouth covered with greyish aphthæ, exhaling a foetid odour, the breath equally foetid; the belly slightly tumefied, and painful to the touch; stools involuntary, black, foetid; involuntary discharge of urine; frequent vomiting. Mustard poultices were applied to the feet, two

blisters to the legs, and ten grains of the sulphate of Peruvian bark were administered in four doses, between mid-day and six o'clock in the evening. No favourable change occurred until the fourteenth day, when all the symptoms became more favourable; and six days afterwards, under a continuation of the medicine, in the dose of six grains a-day, she became convalescent. M. Dupré terminates his account by two cases of intermittent fever, which were removed by the sulphate of Peruvian bark, where the stomach rejected every substance, even sugar and water.

Dr. F. Ribes has, in the same journal, related two cases of tic douloureux in the face, which were cured by the sulphate of Peruvian bark; upon the cases M. Majendie makes the following observation:—"If, as there is every reason to believe, the sulphate of Peruvian bark be a curative means for the horrible disease, tic douloureux, what gratitude do we not owe to the learned chemists who have made known to us this substance, and to the physicians who first employed it in the disease."

In this country, the sulphate of Peruvian bark, (which is, no doubt, a most valuable preparation of the article) cannot be made at a cheaper rate than about four pounds an ounce. In France, we are told, it may be obtained at the rate of thirty shillings an ounce, probably in consequence of Peruvian bark not being subject to a duty in that country. The foreign extract of bark, being made by solar heat, possesses, in a concentrated state, its medicinal virtues, and where the sulphuric acid is added, the sulphate of Peruvian bark is formed, and, when administered in large doses, we suspect, would prove no less efficacious than the pure sulphate of the article. The yellow bark affords more sulphate than any other species.

GOUT.—Mr. Swan, a scientific and experienced surgeon of Lincoln, in his late valuable work on the Nervous System, gives an interesting case of Gout, in which the meadow saffron, and other popular remedies, evidently shortened the life of the patient, and increased his sufferings. We shall give the substance of it as nearly in his own words as possible. The Rev. Mr. Deacon, more than sixty years of age, had been often severely afflicted with gout, from an early period of his life. He had, at different times, taken the eau medicinale, the wine of the meadow saffron, and other popular *specifics*. The digestive organs, at length, became impaired, which is the natural consequence of an injudicious use of such potent anodyne drugs. "For the last eighteen months, he had a ravenous appetite, but never felt satiety. On one occasion, he took an emetic, and threw up undigested food four hours after dinner. He suffered much from difficult breathing, sometimes accompanied with a whistling noise, as if the glottis were constricted. A fit of sleepiness supervened, and continued three weeks. When this went off, the difficult breathing returned. The latter symptom never left him. He had a cough, which was occasionally troublesome. As nothing seemed to relieve him, and as his state appeared to me to be much approaching that of an animal whose eighth pair of nerves had been divided, he was galvanized. A few nights before he died, he was taken with difficulty of breathing to such a degree, and seemed so exhausted, that some wine was given him, and galvanism was again tried. After the first ten minutes, the noise in his breathing left him, and he kept breathing more and more easily, so that, when the galvanism had been used for half an hour, he lay down,

and slept better for several hours than he had done for several nights before. The galvanism was repeated the next day, and he thought himself relieved by it; but this relief was of short duration, for his breathing soon became as bad as ever, and he died a few days after, on the 22d of September."

"I cannot help concluding, that the whole of the above symptoms were produced by the powerful action of strong medicines on the stomach. It always appeared to me that the par vagum suffered in consequence, and I think the craving for food, and the want of a sensation of fulness after eating ever so much, shewed the nerves, at last, had lost their sensitive qualities. Add to this, the difficulty of breathing, with the noise in the larynx when this was bad, and I think it must be concluded, that these effects were produced by a diminished energy of the nerves."

"On opening the abdomen, every thing appeared sound. The outside of the stomach was covered with an unusual quantity of veins. The chest and enlarged heart were unusually fat. The pleura on each side contained about a quart of dark-coloured fluid."

"On tracing the par vagum from the middle of the neck, each nerve was flabby, and much smaller than natural, and felt like nerves removed from a putrid body after having been soaked in water. The branches distributed to the lungs appeared as is usual, as did the continuations of the nerves, nearly as far as the termination of the œsophagus, when they were found redder and thicker than usual, and had not an healthy appearance. The left nerve was smaller than the right."

The root of the meadow saffron (of which the eau medicinale, Reynolds' specific, and some other popular remedies, are vinous infusions) possesses the power of allaying gouty inflammation and pain, and in some constitutions, of terminating the most violent paroxysms in a few hours. A medicine of such power, when injudiciously administered, must, of course, be capable of producing most serious effects.

In a plethoric habit, or in cases of hereditary gout, it may be employed with advantage, to diminish the anguish of pain; but even in such cases, it should not be exhibited in large doses, to terminate the paroxysm. When the disease has been acquired by indulgence in vinous liquors, high seasoned dishes, and irregular habits, which have disordered the digestive organs, or materially impaired the general health; or when the hereditary disease takes place in a weak leuco-phlegmatic habit, it is a most dangerous remedy; and in many instances has induced a degree of debility of stomach, and of the whole nervous system, which has resisted the most powerful stimulating tonic medicines. Indeed, in debauchees, and very nervous subjects, the vital powers are often kept up by gouty excitement of the system; and in such a case, a dose of the meadow saffron, or a preparation of it, by allaying the morbid excitement, will suddenly terminate life: instances of which are by no means uncommon. In such debilitated subjects, the gouty paroxysm unquestionably invigorates the nervous system, and leaves the stomach and bowels in an improved state of health; and when gouty pains quickly fly from one part to another, shewing a want of power in the system to bring on a regular paroxysm of gout, the object of practice should be to assist nature, by increasing the vital powers, and not to reduce them, by

so powerful a sedative, as the meadow saffron. Our experience with the meadow saffron has satisfied us that it may, in robust subjects, be employed in small doses, to allay the extra-violence of a paroxysm; and in some constitutions, to obtain a truce: but if employed in regular gout, in large doses, to terminate the fit, and continued, even in small doses, to allay occasional pains, or to prevent a recurrence of paroxysms, it will assuredly convert regular into irregular gout, injure the digestive organs, and reduce the general health; and patients who have thus been injured by it, have lately become very numerous.

Thus to obtain a mitigation of sufferings, gouty subjects have brought on a degree of debility, attended with an almost insupportable degree of ennui, with loss of appetite, and flying gouty pains in the upper or lower extremities, spasms of the stomach, and irregular action of the heart: they are, in fact, the most miserable cases that occur in the practice of medicine. The only chance such patients have of prolonging life, or rendering it tolerable, is to invigorate the stomach and nervous system; so as to bring on something like a regular paroxysm. With this view, a tonic medicine should be administered, and blisters or stimulating plasters applied frequently to the feet or ancles. An astringent tonic, we have found more beneficial than a very bitter one.

In two cases of irregular gout (after regular gout) and extreme debility of body, brought on by the meadow saffron medicines, the following mixture has proved very efficacious, by promoting digestion, and invigorating the nervous system:—Take of Foreign Extract of Rhatany Root, two drachms; Infusion of the Buchu Leaves, seven ounces; Subcarbonate of Soda, one drachm; Compound Spirit of Ammonia, three ditto. Mix:—three table-spoonsful to be taken twice a day. Three grains of the blue pill may be also taken every night, for the course of a week; to which may be added, as much of the Extract of Rhubarb as may be necessary to obviate costiveness. If the bowels should be obstinately costive, a lavement of mutton-broth, with a table-spoonsful of Epsom salt, may be administered every morning. This remedy, by invigorating the nerves of the rectum, &c. will act as a powerful auxiliary to the tonic medicine. The nerves of the extremities should be occasionally stimulated by a blister, or the following liniment:—Take of Sulphuric Acid, a drachm and a half; Olive Oil, an ounce and a half; Spirit of Turpentine, two drachms; add the acid to the oil by degrees, and when well blended, add the spirit. This liniment should be well rubbed over the ankle joints every night, by means of flannel. The parts should also be pommelled or rubbed with a hard substance, as recommended in a former number. Exercise, although it may aggravate the pain, should be taken according to the degree of strength of the body. Many gouty subjects, who have taken the Buchu leaves for irritative affections of the bladder and kidneys, have been so considerably improved in their general health, that we have been induced to give them a trial in cases of irregular gout; and hitherto with the most decided advantage. They evidently promote digestion, invigorate the nervous system, and produce healthy secretion of the kidneys; which, in gouty subjects, are important operations.

The following is an excellent cordial aperient for gouty subjects, whose bowels are inactive, or not sufficiently relieved every day:—

Take of Rhubarb Root, thinly sliced, one ounce ; Senna Leaves, Buchu Leaves, bruised, of each one ounce ; Caraway Seeds, do. half an ounce ; mix and infuse, for a fortnight, in a quart of brandy. The dose is from two table-spoonsful to a wine-glassful occasionally. The wine of the Colchicum seeds is unquestionably a very valuable remedy for acute and chronic rheumatism, in conjunction with such auxiliaries as the state of the general health may indicate. In gout, it should be employed as a palliative, and that only under the direction of a judicious practitioner.

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL TRANSACTIONS.—(Continued from the last Number.) The thirteenth article is entitled "*Observations on Compound Fractures.*"

From Mr. John Dunn, of Scarborough, who is styled an Esquire and a Surgeon. The 'Squire has introduced two cases of compound fracture, in which he and his partner, a Mr. Travis, (who is not an Esquire), after putting their heads together with that of a Mr. Haggard, of Hunmanby, in deep consultation, determined to remove a portion of the protruding bones, so as to admit of their being put in apposition. The wound in one case, after reduction, appearing like an incised one, 'Squire Dunn applied a suture instead of adhesive plaster, which proved injurious, by exciting inflammation. He concludes this case with the following remark. "Much pain might have been saved to this patient, by the *simple* use of straps of adhesive plaster instead of stitches ; although the wound had *so much* the appearance of a cut, and the suture is *so* strongly recommended by the late Mr. Hey, in his '*Practical Observations*,' I think right *never* to make use of it in a similar case again ;" a very good reason, indeed, for not employing a suture again, because it is strongly recommended by the late Mr. Hey, in his "*Practical Observations* ;" a practitioner who, although not a 'Squire, was one of the most able practical surgeons this, or any other country, has produced ! 'Squire Dunn has added a case of simple fracture, in which he found it necessary to remove, by the saw, a projecting edge of the tibia *after the union* of the bones. The patient was 30 years of age, and had lead an irregular life. The fractured bones of the leg united in the ordinary period, but from *his* want of steadiness, (not the carelessness or *inattention* of the 'Squire), the bones were not in exact apposition ! ! The sharp edge of the fractured part of the tibia projected against the skin, so as to occasion much pain, some deformity, and considerable difficulty in setting his foot on the ground. The skin was inflamed, and would soon have ulcerated. The 'Squire accordingly, with the assistance of his partner, *Mister* Travis, made a semilunar incision of the integuments, reflected them backwards, and with Mr. Hey's saw, amputated the sharp angle of the bone." The 'Squire adds, "I did not remove *a great deal*, as I found Hey's saw a much inferior instrument to the common or metacarpal saw ;" a very good reason, indeed, for not removing "*a great deal* of the bone." The divided skin was then brought into contact, and the wound healed in four days. The leg, he says, "*looked* much straighter," and in three months afterwards, the 'Squire met him walking very well. The 'Squire avails himself of the opportunity the Medical and Chirurgical Society affords him, by pub-

lishing his communications, of "making his acknowledgments to Mr. Haggard, his neighbour, for his unremitting attention to one case of compound fracture, and to Mr. Travis, his partner, for his ready concurrence and zealous co-operation in all." We can discover nothing new in this communication, to justify its publication.

The fourteenth article is a case of hemorrhage from the navel of a newly born infant, after the separation of the funis, from 'Squire Pout, of Market Street, in Bedfordshire. The 'Squire, not being able to discover from whence the blood came, plugged up the opening with lint, &c. and used pressure by means of adhesive plaster and roller. Blood, however, continued to escape, and, notwithstanding the 'Squire's efforts to stop it, "the infant bled to death." The 'Squire concludes, "if ever another case of this kind were to come under my care, I should not hesitate to cut down *upon* the arteries, and to tie them, as the only means of security."

The fifteenth article is a case of vaccine disease and measles, existing at the same time in the same individual, communicated by 'Squire Gilder, Assistant Surgeon to the Coldstream Guards.

This case, the 'Squire imagines, will, in a great degree, subvert the theory of the celebrated John Hunter, who, in his Treatise on the Blood, &c., observes, "as I reckon every operation in the body an action, whether universal or partial, it appears to me beyond a doubt, that no two actions can take place in the same constitution, at one and the same time." 'Squire Gilder vaccinated a child on the 27th of December, and on the 30th it was affected with symptoms of measles, which run its usual course, and the progress of cow-pox was not interrupted by it. Now, most learned Esquire, was not the cow-pox a local disease till matter was absorbed, and has the celebrated John Hunter asserted any thing so ridiculous, that a local disease should have any influence on a constitutional one?

The cow-pox could not have any effect on such disease, until the matter was introduced into the system by absorption, which generally takes place on the eighth or ninth day after the operation, and before that took place, the measles had run its course; besides, had it not run its course, how long does the effect of cow-pox on the constitution exist? If we judge from the fever which it produces, we should say, only a few hours, and in that case, it would only have suspended the measles for that period, provided the measles did not suspend its action on the system. Did 'Squire Gilder suppose that a constitutional disease, like measles, would prevent the action of the cow-pox matter on the skin, after its introduction by a lancet? This matter is as powerful a caustic as lunar caustic, excites considerable inflammation, and often produces a deep eschar, and one would suppose, that no surgeon would, for a moment, expect that a constitutional disease would counteract its local operation. The paper is too ridiculous for comment, and we are surprised that the Medical and Chirurgical Society should impose such trash on their subscribers.

In an early Number we noticed two cases of small-pox, which occurred in children affected with whooping cough. The cough of one (which happened in our own practice), was much aggravated by the

fever, and did not abate as the eruption advanced. Eruptions appeared about the glottis, and the child died. In the other case, the cough ceased on the commencement of the small-pox fever, and this case the surgeon, who attended the patient, published, to confirm the opinion of John Hunter, that two constitutional diseases cannot exist in the same person at the same time. In the latter case, the disease had run its specific course, and the spasmodic cough continued from habit. When this is the case, a simple remedy will often cure the cough. The beneficial effects of change of air on the habitual whooping cough, even when from a pure to an impure one, and charms on adults, are well known. Some time since, the Medical and Chirurgical Society published a case of whooping cough, of *long standing*, from the pen of Doctor Temple, which was cured by a solution of subcarbonate of soda in the decoction of Peruvian bark. The disease, in that instance, no doubt, had run its specific course, and any mixture capable of improving the general health, would, no doubt, have succeeded as well as the bark and soda. The Doctor's report reminds us of the practice of a farrier, who, for some years, kept a record of medical facts. Having, like the Whitworth and Bromley Doctors, established among the ignorant, a high character for superior knowledge of the diseases incident to his fellow-creatures, his advice was solicited in a case of typhus fever, (a young woman,) which a physician and apothecary had declared hopeless. The farrier, with the air and consequence of a *Learned Fellow*, skilled in the art of appearing most wise when they are most ignorant, observed, that the patient had been injudiciously treated, and that, instead of administering medicines to reduce the general health, they should have given tonics, to support the system against the ravages of the fever. The farrier's reasoning being very plausible, the patient was placed under his care. He commenced with a small wine-glassful of brandy. The patient reviving, the cordial spirit was repeated, every four hours, with milk, and after each dose, the symptoms became more flattering. After continuing this stimulating treatment one week, the patient was capable of taking a walk in the garden, and in a few weeks more was well. The farrier, in consequence of his success in this case, made a memorandum in his common place book—"*Brandy good for fever.*" In a short time after the recovery of this patient, her sister was afflicted with the same disease. The farrier's advice was solicited on the first attack. Brandy was administered, to keep up, as he observed, the vital powers. The fever advanced, however, with such rapidity, that in one week she was a corpse. On the result of the stimulating treatment in this case, the observant farrier made the following memorandum in his book of medical facts:—"Brandy good for fever, *but not always.*" We may apply the farrier's last memorandum to Dr. Temple's bark and soda mixture in whooping cough; for, had it been employed in the first stage of the disease, instead of curing the cough, it would have aggravated it. The observant farrier's memorandums are, indeed, but too applicable to many cases which have been published by medical men, to illustrate the beneficial effects of remedies.

The remaining five articles of this volume of the Medical and Chirurgical Society, from 'Squires Earle, Wardrop, Bell, Sir A. Cooper, and Vincent, we shall notice in our next number.

COW-POX.—The Central Commission of Vaccination in France has lately published a striking instance of the preservative effects of cow-pox against small-pox infection. The mother of four children, dwelling in a hamlet consisting of sixty houses, near Cherbourg, had two of them vaccinated, and at the end of eight days communicated the disease to the others herself. Small-pox soon afterwards broke out in the hamlet, in many instances proving fatal, and *all* the children were attacked by it with the exception of those who had been vaccinated. Some women, who had ridiculed the precautions of the mother, piqued on finding the children had resisted the disease, had the wickedness to entice them to their houses several times, and to rub their faces with small-pox matter, and to induce them to eat with their children labouring under the disease. All these attempts proved unavailing; and the women, convinced too late of the efficacy of vaccination, testified their regret at not having followed the example of their neighbour.

M. Fourret, aged nineteen, a student of medicine in Paris, whose father was long Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and a nephew of the celebrated Desgenette, was vaccinated in his infancy by Husson (the Jenner of France.) The development of the virus followed its usual course, and was in all respects satisfactory. Last January, M. Fourret was attacked with confluent small-pox, the eruption having been preceded by fever, accompanied with delirium, for several days. The case was well marked, and attracted considerable notice, having been attended by Fouquier and Desgenette, and visited by others. One of the conclusions drawn from it is, "that a very rare event, and which has perhaps never been well established before the present circumstance, does not destroy the importance and general truth of the preservative influence of vaccination." In the conclusion, says Dr. Macleod, I quite agree; but to say that this observation of M. Pelletan is the first case of small-pox after vaccination, "*bien constante*," shows extreme ignorance or extreme prejudice. There are so many hundreds of cases, as well marked as the present, on record, that no person in this country would have thought of making such a remark.

Judging from the reports we have received from different countries of the security cow-pox *now* affords against small-pox contagion, we are in hopes that practitioners have been induced, by our remarks on the probable cause of its failure, to pay more attention to the time of taking the lymph, the state of the general health, and particularly the skin of the patient to be inoculated; and that the result will prove that the supposed failures that have occurred have been in consequence of ignorance or inattention.

When the inflammation of the inoculated part runs high, the weak mercurial ointment (recent) is an excellent application for abating its violence and keeping it within proper bounds.

WOOD VINEGAR.—M. Dobereiner, a German chemist, stated a few months ago, in a letter to the editors of a foreign journal, that on examining the wood vinegar, (pure pyroligneous acid), he had collected from it a small proportion of alcohol. Mr. Philip Taylor, a scientific chemist of Bromley in Middlesex, in a letter to Dr.

Tilloch, says, that he detected, on making the acid ten years ago, the same article which M. Dobereiner terms alcohol, but which, on a careful examination, he found to be acetic æther. This product, although an old one, we believe, has never been employed in medicine. From its effects in allaying thirst, it merits a trial in fever.

NITRO-MURIATIC ACID.—Mr. Phineas Coyne, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of London, and late of the Honorable East-India Company, has published the results of his experience with the nitro-muriatic acid bath in various diseases, particularly those incidental to tropical climates. Mr. Coyne boldly asserts, that the late Dr. Scott, of Bombay, was aware, twenty-six years ago, that the beneficial effects of his acid bath arose from the production of *chlorine*; for the nitric acid the doctor procured from Apothecaries' Hall, being made from *impure* nitre, contained "a great deal of *muriatic acid*, and consequently chlorine. Our medical readers acquainted with Dr. Scott's *chemical* abilities, will laugh at this assertion. His *liver* patients of Bombay, who survived this *penetrating* or *testing* remedy, will no doubt give Mr. Coyne credit for his motive in defending the professional character of his master. Chlorine then is not a late discovery—having been discovered by Dr. Scott twenty-six years ago? Bravo! Mr. Coyne. To our questions as to the manner in which the nitro-muriatic acid bath operates,—viz. whether its supposed salutary effects on the liver arise from absorption, or from its chemical or stimulating action on the skin, occasioning a determination of blood to, or nervous excitement in, the surface and extremities of the body, or from its operation on the imagination? he replies, "As to its mode of operating, I confess myself (much as I have used it) *perfectly ignorant*; and *therefore* I most highly approve of that silence in Dr. Scott on this point, which that gentleman (the editor) condemns.—Is it not better," says Mr. Coyne, "to be silent than to *annoy* the profession and the public, as the daily scribblers do, by perplexing the former, without throwing the smallest light on the subject, with absurd conjectures and theoretical vagaries, which can serve no one rational or useful purpose?" Now, how can Mr. Coyne account for the *purgative* effects of his favourite remedy on the liver, if it be not conveyed to the mass of blood by the absorbents? If this be the case, of which we have no doubt, may it not, if taken up in great quantity, (for the absorbent quality of the skin of patients greatly differs) act injuriously on tender organs, or those disposed to inflammatory action, as the brain, lungs, intestines, &c.?

Very common consequences of the nitro-muriatic bath are, confusion of head, giddiness, sickness, oppression of the chest, &c.; and will any professional man say that they are not produced by the immediate stimulating action of the acid? But no, says the observant Mr. Coyne, and so said his master, the able scientific chemist, Dr. Scott, "they are certain proofs of the beneficial operation of the remedy on the liver, stirring up the stagnated vitiated bile." Admitting that the action of this remedy is confined to the liver, its effect is that of stimulating the organ, and therefore it

requires great nicety of judgment, which is only to be obtained by long experience and unbiassed observation, to distinguish those cases of disease of the liver in which it may do mischief, from those in which it may prove useful. When the liver is in a sluggish state, and its cellular substance loaded with a deposit, stimulation may be beneficial; but if there be disposition to disease in the pylorus, or lungs, a very common attendant on such disease, it may do irreparable mischief. The affections of the liver which occur in this country are very different to those which occur in tropical climates, and the remedy which is applicable to the one is inapplicable to the other. We must do Mr. Coyne the justice to say that he does not, like the theorists of the present day, attribute every chronic disease to a morbid condition of the liver, and that he does not recommend the adoption of the acid bath in all cases of disease of that organ: we are sorry, however, that he has introduced in his work a disease under the name of *Hepatic Phthisis*; for when the lungs are affected, although sympathetically, we are certain that the acid bath is a dangerous remedy. We have met with, and heard of, some cases of general debility of the system, the consequences of indigestion, in which the acid leg bath has proved beneficial. The Right Honourable Mr. Canning, whose debility was attributed to diseased liver, received essential benefit from it; but Sir James Mackintosh, whose case was deemed similar, derived no advantage from it, and he was afterwards restored to a tolerable state of health by galvanism, under the direction of Mr. La Beaume. As the nitro-muriatic bath may do good, under the superintendence of the practitioner who is capable of taking into consideration the state of the constitution of the patient, we shall conclude this article with Mr. Coyne's directions for mixing the nitric and muriatic acids, and for using the bath:

"It is of the utmost importance to pay attention to the *uniting* of the acids, so as to prepare them for the bath; and also to be careful that the acids be *pure*; for on these depend the success or failure of the remedy. If *NITROUS* acid be used in lieu of *NITRIC*, and *IMPURE* muriatic acid, the compound will, of course, differ essentially, *if not totally*, from the other, independent of its *discolouring* the skin and *nails*. The acids which ought to be made use of are the *nitric* and *muriatic* acids. The combination of these two acids (in given quantities) forms what is termed '*nitro-muriatic acid*,' which is that used for the bath.

"The *alchemists* gave to this compound the name of '*aqua regia*,' because they found it capable of dissolving gold, '*the king of the metals*.' They were doubtless delighted in having made such a discovery, and not troubling themselves further with an investigation of its properties, naturally agreed that the fluid which had the extraordinary power of dissolving gold, well merited the name of '*aqua regia*.' When Dr. Scott first prescribed the acid bath, he recommended, in mixing the acids, to use *equal* parts; he afterwards directed three parts of the muriatic to two of the *nitrous*, finding that these proportions formed a mixture more similar to the old '*aqua regia*' than the former. As we were very certain the good effects of the bath depended upon the water being fully impregnated

with *nitro-muriatic acid*, and that, without its containing any *surplus* of the *nitric* or *muriatic* (as these tend to alter its properties, and render its effects doubtful), it became, and is, a desideratum to discover what proportion of nitric acid was requisite to saturate with oxygen a given quantity of muriatic acid, without any adulteration. Amongst all the different proportions of the acids which I have tried, I find none so good in its effects, or so nearly to stand the *test* of oxygenated muriatic acid, as those which I have used for the last four or five years; viz. *three parts* of colourless muriatic acid to *one* of nitric. I mentioned the proportions I had used, and the result of my trials, to Dr. Scott, who, I believe, prescribed the very same proportions recommended by me. Some degree of care is necessary in mixing the acids, and in proper vessels (wide necked); for when nitric acid is poured upon the muriatic, the liquor gets heated, and an effervescence is produced, which would be likely to burst the vessels, were they narrow necked. To unite the acids with safety, let a jug be used capable of containing *more than twice* the quantity about to be prepared. Put into the jug a quantity of water equal to the *whole* of the acids which you are going to mix; let the muriatic acid be first added, and well stirred with a stick, or delf spoon; then pour in the *nitric* acid, and *re-stir* it. When the nitric acid is poured in, an effervescence may be observed, and *fumes*, having a very peculiar smell, escape during the combination of the two acids. This is *oxygenated muriatic* acid (chlorine), disengaged during the process. Let this liquor (nitro-muriatic acid) remain in the jug for a few minutes, and then be decanted into glass bottles, with stoppers, if for keeping any time, as the acid would very soon corrode the corks. To prepare a bath, let *one* wine-glassful (supposing the glass to contain two ounces) of the *prepared* acid be added to each gallon of water. This quantity I mention as a kind of general rule, but it often requires modification, according to symptoms. The heat of the water must be regulated by the patient's feelings and symptoms present, but in no case should it be used too hot, but only agreeably warm. When the hip or slipper bath is used, the quantity of water and acid is of course great; it may therefore be of service to mention here, that a great portion of the old bath will answer for three or four times, by reheating it in the following manner; viz. throw away *one half* or *one third* of the old bath, and add of *boiling* water to the remainder as much as will make it sufficiently warm, then as much of the *prepared acid* as will bring the whole to the *usual strength*. The bath should never be made so strong as to produce any unpleasant prickling of the skin. The strength of the bath, the time required to use it, and the frequency of its repetition, must (like the administering of other medicines) be regulated according to the disease, the *delicate* state of the patient, symptoms present, &c. &c. By a reference to the cases given, it will be seen that I generally ordered the patients to remain in the bath, at its commencement, about fifteen minutes, and gradually increased the time to thirty or forty.

"The vessel used as a bath must be of either wood or delf, and on no account should the tin bath be made use of; for independent of

the acid destroying the tin, the nature of the acid itself would be changed by its action on the metal. The *leg* bath should be *narrow*, and deep enough to reach to the knees; and in using the hip or a full bath, the same manner of preparing it is adopted. The water may also be applied, by means of a sponge, to the *abdomen* and *arms*. The sponge and towels made use of should be thrown into plain water, as the constant application of the acid to such things is apt to corrode them. In applying the acid bath by means of a sponge, no friction should be used, as it produces *pimples*, which obliges the patient to omit the bath for a few days, or until these disappear. The bath should be gradually increased in strength, until the patient *feels* a *very slight* tingling of the skin, but not beyond."

In our next, we intend to give a biographical sketch of the late Dr. Scott, and to notice Mr. Wallace's mode of applying chlorine in the form of vapour.

CARELESSNESS IN COMPOUNDING MEDICINE. —

SIRS,—I must request of you, on this occasion, to permit me to make use of an old saw, by way of apology—better late than never; and without more preface, I shall proceed, according to my promise, to give you a brief history of a case of poison, which came under my inspection. It originated, as usual, in the carelessness prevalent in druggist and apothecaries' shops, where the important task is often confided to ignorant errand boys, to compound the most dangerous medicines.

In a family of my acquaintance, one of the daughters, a young lady of seven or eight and twenty years of age, is constitutionally a bilious patient. Her disease, in spite of all the advice she has had, and the methods tried, is now become chronic and confirmed, admitting only of palliation. It is common, in such cases, for particular medicines, however successful at first, to lose their effect on repetition; and on such an occurrence, I recommended the trial of a form, published in one of your Numbers. It consists of extract of bitter apple, calomel, antimonial powder, and gamboge. The intent being merely to evacuate the accumulated bilious matter, and the patient having been previously, to a sufficient degree, dosed with those potent articles, I directed both the calomel and antimonial powder to be omitted. The pills, in this altered state, succeeded, performing all which was expected from them; and several boxes had been taken. In September, 1820, I was requested to write for more of the antibilious pills, which I did, exactly according to your recipe. The patient being very weak, I desired her to take but one pill, but she determined to take two. It was about nine o'clock in the evening, and she had not taken them ten minutes, before she felt a burning heat in the throat and region of the stomach, and in the arm-pits, the sensation extending to her fingers' ends. Soon after her tongue became black and swollen, her teeth loose, and she had a short convulsive cough. Her finger nails were black, her hands and fingers rigidly contracted, and her under jaw fallen. A sense of suffocation was felt, and a convulsive fit seemed approaching. Of course, I desired immediate additional medical assistance

to be called, but could not, on whatever consideration, prevail. I was thus compelled to remain under the greatest consternation I ever before suffered in my life. I immediately prescribed vinegar, strongly recommended in the case of mineral poisons, which I supposed this to be. In the interim, the eldest daughter, turning over your Medical Guide, found liver of sulphur prescribed. In consequence, common sulphur, the succedaneum at hand, with a portion of nitre, was exhibited in milk. I should have observed, that she had previously drank warm water, and taken an emetic. A dreadful and restless night succeeded, and the sulphur of nitre mixture were given three times. It remained on the stomach. Next morning, half an ounce of Epsom salt speedily produced two motions, with vomiting, which fortunately brought up the matter of the pills combined with the sulphur, being of a most nauseous taste. Part of the sulphur came up unchanged, as a considerable quantity had been taken; but with no other than a salutary effect. The patient, as may be supposed, laboured under the utmost prostration of strength, with the lowest possible state of the pulse, and a disheartening chilliness. Desiring some evacuant, she took six drachms of aloetic wine, without any perceptible effect. On the following day, the stomach appeared to be entirely relieved of the load, but the coats were sore, as if, it was expressed, from scalding lead, and seemingly indicated the painful sensations remaining under the arms and on the finger nails, as if they were being torn off. On application to the druggist, he supposed the boy who made up the medicine, had by mistake used tartarized antimony, which, however, I can scarcely conceive could produce such severe and perilous effects, and which, in the opinion of medical friends whom I consulted, could only result from the most powerful mineral poison. I am sensible of a breach of public duty, in withholding the name of the druggist; but the truth is, I despair of living to see the time when men will encounter the fatigue, and loss of time, and hinderance of business, which attend *taking care*, either for themselves or others; and when stage-coach accidents, and those from fire-arms and drowning, shall be decreased in any moderate degree. Not a tenth part of the blunders and dangerous accidents resulting from mistakes in drugs, are published.

The patient, though convalescent, was necessarily in a deplorable state of weakness, and the old fashioned tonic plan of 'vin. rub. *quinquinated*,' was recurred to. We were compelled, however, by the nature of the case, to exhibit this stimulant with due caution and moderation; for as strength accumulated, too strong an effect was produced upon the circulation; and in bed chiefly, such a violent pulsation in the hepatic region supervened, that it prevented sleep, and might even be *heard*. The result, in two or three weeks, was, that it was absolutely necessary to discontinue the bark, and allow only a very small quantity of wine; nor was it long thereafter, that it was found equally necessary to discard the wine itself. Formerly, in an attack of extreme coldness in the general habit and numbness of the limbs, in the same patient, rust of iron was tried, in the smallest doses,—a very uncommon remedy, I

apprehend, in hepatic disease. However, it succeeded, as to the proposed intention, in the end inducing symptoms of a dangerous complexion, when it was discontinued.

I must wait an occasion of more leisure, to trouble you with some particulars of a case, in which the fashionable system of depletion and debilitation ended fatally; also of a supposed and mistaken one of *hydrocephalus internus*, which lately came under my observation, and in which the infant patient was obviously systematized to death.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most humble and obedient servant,

Somers Town, Nov. 12, 1822.

JOHN LAURENCE.

We suspect the compounder made use of the *oxy-muriate* of mercury (the corrosive sublimate of mercury) instead of the submuriate of mercury, (calomel) a mistake which was not uncommon, for three or four years after the introduction of *new* names by the College of Physicians.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.—Dr. Forbes, Deputy Inspector of Hospitals, has published six cases of pulmonary consumption, in which he found the tar vapour to prove injurious. The scientific Doctor employed it in the following manner:—"In a small ward, containing six patients, were placed two common metal pots, into each of which two pounds of tar were poured, with the addition of one ounce of the *supercarbonate* of potass, in order to *absorb* the pyroligneous acid." (!!!) "Under these vessels were placed a spermaceti oil lamp, by the heat of which the vapour was disengaged. The windows and door of the ward were closed, to prevent the escape of the vapour." "Hitherto," says the doctor, "we have generally used it *six* hours, daily, but it may be used a much longer period. Guided by Sir A. Crichton's opinion, that most advantage appeared to be afforded by the remedy to patients affected with tubercular consumption, six cases of that description were selected. From the manifest *bad* effects of the remedy in *all* these cases, we were obliged shortly to relinquish its use, and not only in them, but in all cases of a like nature. In general it rendered the breathing more difficult, the cough almost incessant, the expectoration was diminished, the pulse commonly accelerated, and anxiety and restlessness produced." In order to shew more clearly its effects, the Doctor has given the two following cases:—

"**CASE I.**—Simon Burton, aged 23, of strumous-diathesis, has laboured under pectoral complaints for nearly two years; breathing very much oppressed; cough frequent, with copious purulent expectoration; pulse 120, moderately full; perspires copiously at night, and his bowels are generally constipated; tongue clean; appetite pretty good. He is much emaciated; his symptoms undergo considerable exacerbation in the evening, and he is hectic to an extreme.

"*April 29th.*—Ordered the tar-vapour.

"*30th.*—Passed a restless night; breathing more laborious, and cough more troublesome.

"*May 1st.*—Respiration continues to become more difficult; cough undiminished; complains much of thirst; pulse 132.

" *Three o'clock, same day.*—Since last report, his respiration has become extremely difficult; the cough almost incessant; and there is anxiety of countenance and general inquietude. Removed immediately to another ward. This patient, on his removal from the tar-vapour ward, became in every respect easier; respiration was performed with comparative freedom, and the cough and other symptoms suffered considerable abatement. I have little doubt that, had the use of the remedy been persisted in, he would shortly have died by suffocation. He died on the 21st of May, and the lungs were found much tuberculated: most of the tubercles in a state of ulceration, and strong adhesions between the pleuræ.

" *CASE II.*—William Taylor, aged 22, has laboured under pulmonary affection for eleven months. Respiration hurried and laborious; cough frequent and severe, accompanied with purulent expectoration; pulse 120, of good strength and fulness; occasionally perspires profusely, and his bowels are prone to constipation. Emaciation and debility considerable; tongue clean; appetite indifferent. Towards evening, his breathing becomes more difficult, and the other symptoms also suffer considerable exacerbation. The pulsation of the heart is widely diffused, and is best felt at the epigastrium.

" *April 29.*—Put under the use of the tar-vapour.

" *30th.*—Had a restless night, and his breathing is rather more oppressed; the cough more distressing, and there is general inquietude; pulse 124.

" *Three o'clock, same day.*—Respiration much more impeded, and the other symptoms considerably aggravated. He anxiously desires to be removed to another ward.

" The tar-vapour obviously did harm in this case, as in the other. The patient died about eight days after his removal. He was often heard piteously to lament his ever having tried the 'tar-smoke,' as he had 'never recovered the breath he had lost under its use.'"

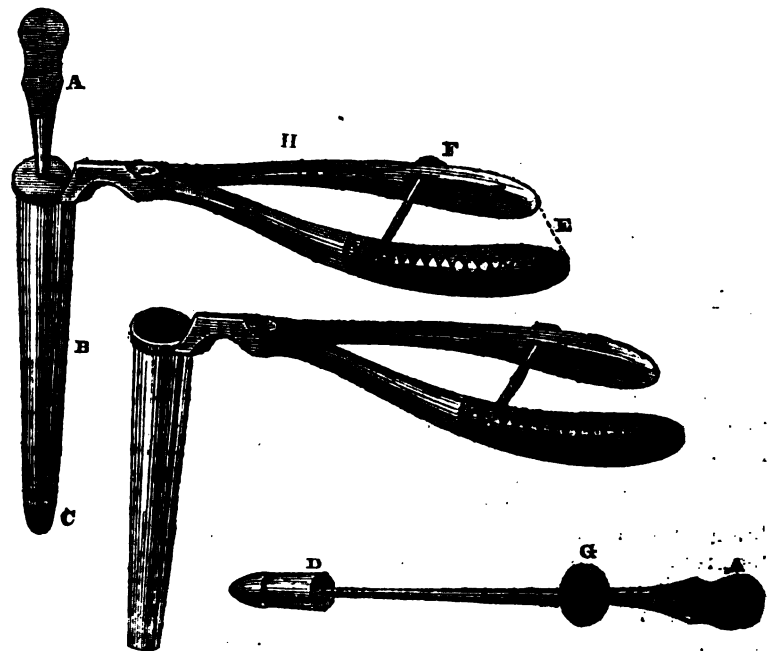
This was indeed proceeding most scientifically. The patients being evidently in the last stage of consumption, the organic mischief had arrived to a pitch, which rendered a pure air necessary to support life. Respiration was in fact carried on by the upper parts of the lungs, the lower parts being too much diseased to admit of distension of the air cells. Had the cases been fair ones for the experiment, instead of closing the doors of a *small* ward to prevent the escape of the vapour, and consequently the admission of fresh air, and of placing two large lamps in the centre of the ward, which, by consuming the oxygen, must deteriorate the air, the door should at least have been left open; but the Doctor, to exhibit something like chemical knowledge, added the *supercarbonate* of potash, to neutralize, or, as he says, to *absorb* the pyroligneous acid; the consequence of which was, a considerable disengagement of carbonic acid gas!! Now, which was likely to produce most mischief or inconvenience to the poor shut-up patients, the disengaged carbonic acid gas, or the vapour of the pyroligneous acid? Indeed, was not the latter more likely to prove an useful auxiliary to the tar vapour than otherwise? Was it surprising that six patients, in the last

stage of consumption, closely shut up in a small ward, with two large lamps burning nearly under their noses, in an atmosphere impregnated with carbonic acid gas and the vapour of tar, should experience great difficulty of breathing, aggravation of cough, and acceleration of the circulation of the blood? The only part that appears to us surprising is, that they should have been able to continue in such an atmosphere so long as six hours, and that they should have had resolution to submit to the remedy a second time. Now as the Doctor was "guided by Sir A. Crichton's opinion," as to the *kind* of consumption in which it was likely to succeed, he should also have been guided by the directions he has given for its use. Did Sir A. Crichton neutralize the acid by *super-carbonate* of potass? If he had thought it necessary, he would have employed the pure potass, and not an article which, on uniting with the pyroligneous acid, would let loose an acid, which would prove more irritating to the lungs. Indeed, it appears to us, that the Doctor would have saved himself, and his assistants at the General Military Hospital, much trouble, if he had put his patients in a chimney, with a good wood fire in the grate, the atmosphere of which would be very similar to that of the small ward, which his poor patients were compelled to breathe for six hours. We should think that no medical man acquainted with the organic disease of the lungs, which constitutes tubercular consumption, would expect much benefit from the tar-vapour. When properly employed, as recommended in a late Number of this work, by correcting the discharge from the membranous lining of the wind-pipe and bronchial ramifications, it allays irritation of those surfaces, and thereby shortens the paroxysms of cough, and facilitates expectoration and breathing. It is therefore a valuable palliative in incurable cases, and a powerful auxiliary in curable ones; indeed, it may render remedies, &c. successful, which, without it, would have only proved palliative. In cases of chronic inflammation of the membrane lining the wind-pipe, and its ramifications, a disease very common in this country, and often mistaken for tubercular consumption, the tar-vapour, by correcting the morbid secretion, is a most valuable remedy; and in chronic cough, attended with difficulty or deficiency of expectoration, it generally proves very beneficial.

DISEASES OF THE RECTUM, &c.—When irritation occurs in the rectum, or about the anus, it is very common for the patient to attribute it to piles; and for physicians, unacquainted with surgery, to treat it for that complaint. We sometime since met with a case of erysipelatous inflammation about the verge of the anus, which, in consequence of having been treated by a high-bred Cambridge physician of the city, extended internally and externally to the great distress of the patient. When irritation exists only in the rectum, it is generally termed internal or blind piles. It, however, arises from different affections of the rectum; the nature of which it is necessary to ascertain in order to effect a cure, or to prevent structural disease, a very common consequence of neglect or injudicious treatment. Common causes of irritation are, varicose veins, containing very dark blood, thickening of the coats of veins, sinuses

from frequent rupture of varicose veins, small ulcerations of the internal membrane, fungous and indurated excrescences, and thickening of the walls of the rectum, occasioning external piles; and if the causes of the irritation be satisfactorily discovered, by inspection, &c. much serious mischief may be prevented. The speculum generally employed for inspecting the rectum does not expose a sufficient surface to enable a surgeon to ascertain the real condition of the intestine. In the first place, being made of a conical form, the sphincter ani is so much put on the stretch, when it is introduced, that it will not admit of its being opened, for this muscle is in all cases of irritation in the rectum in a state of great irritability; and in the next place, the end of the instrument being closed, the part beyond it is not exposed. In consequence of finding this instrument of little or no use, we have made considerable alterations in it, which, we flatter ourselves, will meet with the approbation of our medical subscribers. Certain it is, that by its use we have been able to discover the cause of irritation in a great number of cases, and have succeeded in curing diseases of the rectum, which had been under the care of Mr. Abernethy, Sir Astley Cooper, and Mr. Cline.

The following is a representation of the instrument, which we have named "Reece's Speculum Recti et Vaginæ," being as useful for the examination of the vagina, and for ascertaining the state of the cervix uteri, as the rectum.



(Made by Savigney, Mason, & Co. St. James's Street.)

DESCRIPTION, &c.

A.—The handle of the introductory staff.

B.—The body, being cylindrical.

C.—The end of the introductory staff, being nearly semi-globular, for the purpose of facilitating the introduction of the cylindrical portion. When introduced, the staff is to be withdrawn, and the cylinder expanded by very gradually closing the blades of the handle E. When the cylinder is sufficiently expanded, it should be kept in that state by the screw F, otherwise the spring H will close it, and pinch the part of the intestine that may get between the openings on the sides. The parts D and C tend to keep the staff steady during introduction. The internal surface of the cylinder, and indeed the whole of the instrument that comes in contact with the intestine, is highly polished. After the staff is withdrawn and the cylinder expanded, a considerable portion of the intestine is exposed at the end and the sides; and on withdrawing it slowly, the whole surface may be examined by keeping the eyes fixed on the opening at the extremity. The body is a perfect cylinder, and not slightly conical, as represented in the drawing.

In our next number we intend to give an article on the diseases of the rectum, and cervix uteri, with some cases to illustrate a new mode of treatment, by injecting sinuses, and by the use of soft and hard bougies, impregnated with the acetate of copper. We shall satisfactorily prove that diseases of those parts are not the consequences of a disordered state of the digestive organs, as asserted by Mr. Abernethy and others, but that the disordered state of those organs which are generally attendant on them, is the effect of the disease.

ASTHMA, WINTER COUGH.—We have met with some cases of these diseases, in which smoking of the hop has proved highly beneficial. In cases of true nervous or spasmodic asthma, it certainly removes the sense of oppression of the chest, affords great facility of breathing, and, at the same time, by promoting expectoration, has succeeded in keeping off the asthmatic paroxysm. In chronic cough, arising from a loaded state of the air vessels of the lungs with mucus, it has also proved very beneficial, by increasing the power of the patient to expectoration, and allaying irritation of the membrane lining the wind-pipe, &c. The patients employed the Mathon white hop, noticed in our last number, (sold by Mr. Butler, Herbalist, of Covent Garden), and, on account of affording more of the aromatic principle, and more resin, than any other species, it is entitled to a preference; for to them the beneficial effects in those diseases are principally attributable. The oxymel of hedge-hyssop, in the dose of three tea-spoonful, two or three times a day, in a wine-glassful of mint or rosemary tea, may be taken; or, in case of general debility, in a wine-glassful of the decoction of Iceland moss. In our next we hope to be able to give a description of a new apparatus for increasing the temperature of the atmosphere of the chambers of patients afflicted with diseases of the lungs, and of diffusing oxygen through it.

HEAD-ACHE.—Mr. Farmer, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c. &c., favoured us with a copy of a new edition of his “Practical Observations on certain Affections of the Head, commonly called Head-Aches.” In this edition, which is much enlarged, and in many respects greatly improved, the author has noticed two more species of head-ache, which are very common in this country, viz. the *clavus hystericus* and periodical head-ache, which are varieties of the nervous head-ache, which he noticed in his first edition. He has also, with great propriety, added a Chapter on Indigestion; disorders of the stomach being often the predisposing causes of almost every species of head-ache. In noticing Dr. Wilson Philip’s book on Indigestion, we gave our opinions as to the different conditions of the stomach, viz. debility and superirritation. We shall therefore give Mr. Farmer’s description, &c. of the disease, without comment, our objections to referring indigestion to debility only, applying with equal force to Mr. Farmer’s definition.

“INDIGESTION is a complaint which is not confined to any particular class of people, neither does age or sex find any exemption from its attacks; for I have remarked it in the tender period of infancy, and in that of decrepid old age; and as to sex, I believe it is equally met with in one as in the other: females, however, may be said to be most susceptible of it.

“The disease may be divided into three stages; the first being characterised by weakness of the stomach and derangement in the biliary organs: the second consists in a chronic inability in the stomach to perform its functions: the third stage is marked by organic disease taking place.

“Most of the leading symptoms which indicate the first stage may be comprised under the following observations. Soon after a meal, especially dinner, an unpleasant sensation is experienced at the end of the breast bone, accompanied with a feeling of weight and oppression, which continues until the stomach has passed its contents in the usual direction, or expelled it by vomiting. There is also an inclination in the fluids taken to turn sour; and in some cases they are converted into a strong acid, which gives rise to the complaint called *heart-burn*. This disposition to acidity is created by a vitiated state of the gastric juice, which is sometimes aggravated by the use of too much vegetables and fruits. Some people feel a soreness in the stomach, which appears to extend up the gullet; and when meat, or any other solid food is swallowed, it seems to scrape as it passes. The tongue generally affords a very striking indication of gastric disorder, by its presenting a white furred surface. But there are cases in which no perceptible alteration takes place upon it. In the morning, however, it is almost always coated with a viscid kind of mucus, which, to the patient, is very disagreeable, and he endeavours, by means of a scraper, to remove it. It may be also remarked, that the mouth often points out this stage of the disease, by its being subject to sores: gum-boils are also frequently the effects of it. The taste is sometimes impaired, and often indicates the prominent features of the disorder under consideration; for in some people there is a bitterness experienced, which shews the

biliary secretions to be too abundant. Others find a sour taste in the mouth, which is an evidence of acidity on the stomach.

"It may be observed in most cases of indigestion, that the bowels are very irregular, being sometimes obstinately costive, and at others unusually loose. The former of these states is, however, the most common, which may be owing to the imperfect manner in which the bile is supplied, or to its total absence. The purging is usually induced by the food passing through the intestines when but half digested, and being, in that case, extraneous matter. The stools are generally of a dark colour, nearly approaching to black; but if the secretion of bile be suppressed, they are generally of a pale clay appearance, and sometimes the excrements resemble street dirt. Flatulence, more or less, is almost always an attendant on every stage of this complaint, and, in many instances, it is the cause of spasms in the stomach. When wind gets into the bowels, it creates great uneasiness; it is particularly apt to do so in the morning, before breakfast. The urine varies in colour and consistence, it being sometimes of a light aspect, and clear, but most generally of a deep red colour, and, in the advanced stages, it deposits a sediment resembling brickdust. On some occasions there is a white settlement at the bottom of the vessel containing it, when it has stood some time.

"Sleep is disturbed, and a night's rest fails in communicating to the body that refreshment which nature intends it. When the patient is in bed, a feverish heat extends over the skin; but in many cases it is confined to the hands and feet. Under these circumstances, distressing dreams are caused, which harass the patient during the night. Night-mare is almost exclusively confined to those people who are subject to stomach complaints. Amongst females, we may remark hysterical disorders to be prominent; and, indeed, in both sexes the nervous system is a good deal impaired. Debility, both of body and mind, is a concomitant of indigestion; nor should this surprise us, when we consider the controul which the corporeal system exercises over that of the mental."

(To be continued.)

SUPPRESSION OF URINE.—SIRS,—On reading your Gazette for this month, I was struck with a case of suppression or non-secretion of urine, which terminated favourably under the management of Mr. Bidwell; and as a similar case has been under my treatment in this city, you are at liberty to insert the following brief account, if you deem it worth notice, in the hope of adding to the treatment pursued by that gentleman.

Mr. T—, aged 64, full habit of body, was seized with suppression of urine without any assignable cause, accompanied with hot burning skin, parched tongue, pulse full and hard, 106 in the minute, with great anxiety, but not much pain; and after copious bleeding, to the extent of one hundred and sixty ounces, diuretica, with saline and oily purgatives, were taken, clysters administered, hot baths used, &c. &c. &c. I had given him over, as now all the symptoms were greatly aggravated by the lapse of nine days and four hours;

when, I am happy to say, the patient suddenly recovered, from the apparent simple remedy of drinking two quarts of cold spring water, which I gave him within ten minutes, and which caused violent perspiration in the course of twenty minutes afterwards, and in the space of twelve hours he voided three or more gallons of urine. The catheter had been previously introduced several times into the bladder, but no urine followed. My reason for not particularizing the medicines each day prescribed, is, that I attribute his recovery chiefly to the copious bleedings and the cold water taken.

I am, Sirs,

Yours, &c.

Bath, Nov. 25, 1822.

A. A. HARVEY.

P. S.—Query, Do you think, by dashing cold water over the patient, when the body is at a certain temperature, it might tend to good effect in these cases?—It might, by cooling the body.

BROWN BREAD.—SIRS,—Having recently perused your publications of 'The Gazette of Health,' which were lent to me, my attention was particularly directed to a letter in the second volume, page 521, from a correspondent in Norfolk, in reference to bran bread. I have been nearly all my life troubled with indigestion, and extreme costiveness; insomuch, that for some years past I have been obliged almost daily to have recourse to purgatives. For some months past I have refrained from eating any bread. About ten days ago I caused some bread to be made as recommended by your correspondent. For the past week I have found considerable benefit from it, inasmuch as for four days past I have had no occasion for medicine, the bowels being relieved once or twice daily. Bran bread appears to be an invaluable article of diet; as such, I am desirous of ascertaining the very best method of making it, and should feel most grateful if your Norfolk correspondent, or any of your friends, thoroughly acquainted therewith, would inform me thereof: viz. if, in grinding the wheat, the bran should be ground small as possible, and is it desirable for the meal to be kept any length of time before used; or is it better to be used immediately after it is ground? What are the proportions of meal, water, yeast, salt, &c.? How mixed prior to fermentation—if with warm water, or is milk and water preferable; the period requisite for fermentation; and at what distance from the fire? How to ascertain when properly fermented; what sized loaves are best; to what extent the oven should be heated? How long the loaf to remain in to be thoroughly baked; and if any method of ascertaining when baked sufficiently? Whether better to be baked in tins, or not? How long the bread should be kept after taken from the oven, before proper to be eaten by a person with a weak stomach?

I have already had this bread made by three different methods, and am induced to think have not yet succeeded; it being bitter, rather heavy, and not light and porous—the latter, I apprehend, proceeds from not being thoroughly fermented, the loaves too large,

and not baked properly; the former from the yeast. Is there any sort of yeast considered preferable to what is obtained from the ale or small-beer brewer? When the yeast is bitter, is there any method of removing such, prior to using? I am informed there is yeast termed *patent*, made for and by the bakers themselves, from malt and hops, which is much used by them. Are you aware whether such is preferable to brewers' yeast? I am induced to hope you will excuse my trespassing on so considerable a space of your invaluable publication, as I perceive that your wish is the extension of information calculated in any point of view to promote the health and comfort of your fellow-creatures.

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

H. FORBES.

Stratford, Essex,
Nov. 25, 1822.

MAD HOUSES. — Notwithstanding these establishments are regularly visited by magistrates, and placed under the superintendence of the Royal College of Physicians, by the legislature, much, in our opinion, remains to be done, both in public and private institutions, in the way of moral management, an increased attention to which would greatly contribute to the comfort as well as cure of those afflicted persons confined within their walls.

The classification of patients, according to the different degrees of aberration, so much neglected, is a consideration of the greatest moment. By an indiscriminate mixture of disordered persons, much mischief is done those who may be but slightly affected. To be constantly in company with others that are much more so, must be to them a great annoyance; and in many instances, if it does not wholly prevent, cannot fail to retard recovery. To obviate this serious inconvenience, every asylum should be sufficiently roomy, and supplied with an adequate proportion of attendants. Another disadvantage, which is but too obvious, is a want of proper attention to suitable amusements and recreations; to keep the mind according to its degree of power in action, is the way to increase its energy. In a family of patients, it is more than probable, the greater part are capable of pursuing some occupation, were sufficient pains taken for this purpose, and opportunities given. But so long as establishments are conducted by servants, and not by principals, the advantages that would accrue in this respect, are not likely to be extensive. Many persons who have had any favourite pursuit, will often retain an inclination for the same when mentally disordered; and whether this may consist in labour or art, the opportunity to indulge it will ever tend to facilitate a cure. Houses for the reception of lunatics, must of necessity be places of security; there nevertheless is no occasion why they should assume the prison-like appearance many of them have, both exteriorly and interiorly. The gloomy aspect of some of these establishments is calculated to render the disease permanent, and in the furious to keep up irritation, and add to the depression and despondency of the melancholic.

The pitiable situation of this part of suffering humanity, excites in

our minds so warm an interest and sympathy, that any thing in the shape of improvement upon the present system, as may suggest itself to us, we freely offer, with the hope it may turn to good account.

That much domestic comfort may be experienced within the precincts of an Insane House, we have no doubt, having had ocular demonstration of this fact, in visiting an establishment at *Hammer-smith*, conducted by Mr. Knight, the arrangement of which, both external and internal, gave us the highest satisfaction. His plans are such, that on entering the house, the idea of being in a place appropriated to maniacs is soon lost, every thing wearing a cheerful aspect, and the greatest part of the patients employed in some way or other, to exercise the mind and body. Drawing, music, needle-work, and the reading of suitable books, appear to be the favourite in-door amusements, while due attention is paid to air and exercise, by their having free access to a pleasant and extensive garden; and to these peculiar advantages, are united the most kind and gentle treatment. We consider Mr. K.'s constantly residing in the house, whereby the patients are under his own immediate superintendence, to be a very essential benefit to his family; in short, the establishment is, in our opinion, deserving the highest commendation.

Further remarks on the *moral* management of mad-houses in our next.

HUNT'S GENUINE FAMILY PILLS.—The proprietor of this "most excellent medicine for bilious complaints, disorders of the stomach and bowels, indigestion, pains and giddiness of the head, piles, dimness of sight, heart-burn, flatulence, worms, and dropsical complaints," is *Mrs. Hunt*, widow of the late *T. Hunt, chemist*, now living in Bath, a city in which old women practitioners for many years have met with great success. "After removing the above diseases," good mother Hunt asserts, "that the body performs its due functions, and the *patient* is restored to the perfect enjoyment of health."! After taking a dose every night successively, she advises the patient to rest for a few days, and repeat the medicine, as occasion may require, and *their use* (says she) *must be persisted in before their good effects will be experienced*. On examining this "most invaluable family medicine," we have not been able to discover any thing but aloes, a very proper medicine for *bowel complaints, piles, dropsy, &c.!!!* The contents of a shilling box cost the learned doctress about a halfpenny. Since the regular and irregular quacks introduced the hepatic system, and attributed nearly all the diseases that assail humanity to some vitiated state of the bile, bilious purgative medicines have been in great demand; and of all the nostrums that have been advertised, none have been productive of more human misery; for the basis of all being aloes, their use has been followed by the most distressing diseases of the rectum, in consequence of the irritation they have kept up in the internal surface. It is solely to the general use of antibilious pills of quacks, that the great increase of diseases of the rectum in this country is attributable.

[To October 12, 1822.]

FIRST ADDITION TO THE APPENDIX

OF

THE GAZETTE OF HEALTH,

CONTAINING

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CURE OF DIFFERENT STRICTURES OF THE URETHRA AND REC- TUM, AN AFFECTION OF THE SEMI- NAL DUCTS, GENERALLY MIS- TAKEN FOR STRICTURE,	MORBID IRRITABILITY OF THE BLADDER AND RECTUM, DISEASE OF THE PROSTATE GLAND, GLEET, IMPOTENCY, NOCTURNAL EMISSIONS,
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WITH

CASES ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF THE
BUCHU LEAVES,

IN IRRITATIVE DISEASES OF THE BLADDER, SPASMODIC STRICTURE, &c.

By RICHARD REECE, M.D.

Of London,

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• This Work being an Addition to the Appendix on the Venereal Disease, &c. the Number of the Pages is continued from it.

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ADVICE.

In the Preface to the Appendix we have stated, that in consequence of the impositions that are practised on the unwary by unprincipled advertisers, we had resolved to attend every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at No. 8, Bolton Row, Piccadilly, to give Advice to those who are afflicted with the diseases noticed in that work.

Other engagements have prevented our regular attendance on those days, but that applicants may not be disappointed in future, we have resolved to attend at our private house, as above, on every Wednesday and Saturday, from eleven o'clock in the forenoon, till three in the afternoon. To render this work as extensively useful as possible, we shall be happy to answer any letter that may be addressed to us on any of the subjects it embraces.

October 12, 1822.

OF
STRICTURE OF THE URETHRA,

&c. &c.

A FEW discoveries of remedies for, and works on, the cure of some of the diseases noticed in the Appendix to the Monthly Gazette of Health, (which, from motives of delicacy, we have declined to notice in the regular Numbers), have rendered this small Addition to that work necessary.

STRICTURE OF THE URETHRA.

SINCE the publication of our Appendix, three books on different modes of curing stricture of the urethra have appeared; viz. a twelve shilling volume, by Messrs. Bell and Shaw, (lecturers on anatomy and surgery), a seven shilling one by Mr. James Arnott, (formerly a surgeon in the East India Company's service), and a twelve shilling one by a Mr. Bingham, (who styles himself a *fellow* of the Royal College of Surgeons), and also a paper on the same subject by Mr. Shaw, in the Transactions of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of London.

Messrs. Bell and Shaw being teachers of anatomy and surgery, their book is entitled to first attention. The body of this work, Mr. Bell states, was written by himself, and the notes by Mr. Shaw, his demonstrator and brother-in-law. The commentary and explanatory assistance of Mr. Shaw, Mr. B. says he was induced to accept, in the "hope of seeing his reputation extended, by showing him to be not only an *excellent* anatomist, but capable of forming a *judicious* opinion on *matters of practice*, which," he adds, "is the *most useful and yet the RAREST* accomplishment of the surgeon."!! Mr. Bell expresses his regret "that the *name* of Mr. Hunter has been so much used, and his *example* so little followed." In disregarding this great authority, Mr. Bell, with the diffidence peculiar to men of *real* scientific attainments, observes, "It has not been by trusting to *my own reason*, but to the *evidence* of anatomy, as being above *all* authorities!!! Unlike other surgeons, or rather those who may differ in opinion from him, he asserts, "that he has trusted more to what he has *seen* than to what he has *heard*, and to the works of *his own hands*, rather than the *authority of writers*," even of the Hunters themselves."!! This great independent surgeon expresses a hope, no doubt, very sincerely, that "the *numerous* proofs of *wrong practice* and *fatal errors* which he has adduced, "may not be met with prejudice, but that they may make that impression on his *reader's* mind, for which they are so well calculated."!! Notwithstanding these *liberal* and *very modest* declarations, the learned gentleman ventures to "throw himself completely on the profession, to be judged by them as to the merits of his work;" and notwithstanding his boasts of having formed opinions on the authority of anatomy, and the

works of his own hands, he very consistently states, that "he has no new method of curing stricture to propose, and that he has dwelt only on the *difficulties* of practice." "When," says he, "an *awkward* surgeon fails in an operation, his *ignorance* is so apparent to the bystanders, that he is deterred from a second exhibition; but in stricture the *want of dexterity* is not evident; *timidity* appearing caution, and *rashness*, decision or commendable boldness." The reader, as capable of thinking for himself as the learned author, will, no doubt, receive the * impression these remarks are so well calculated to produce." Besides annotations, Mr. Bell has added an *original* article on the anatomy of the urethra, by his brother-in-law, to shew his "great anatomical knowledge, the accuracy of his observations, and the profundity of his judgment." In the course of dissections, Mr. Shaw states, "he thinks he has discovered a *peculiar* structure in the membranous part of the urethra, and that the urethral tube is not muscular, as supposed by Mr. Hunter, Sir Everard Home, and other surgeons." When a surgeon asserts that the urethra is muscular, we conceive he speaks of the *tube* or canal, and not of its membranous lining. It is common for a surgeon to say that an artery or the windpipe is muscular; but can any surgeon be so stupid as to suppose by the assertion, that he speaks only of the *internal* membrane? The lining of the urethra is a thin secreting membrane of very fine texture; and no person who had seen it dissected once, could for a moment suppose it to be composed of *muscular* fibres, or that *muscular* fibres are distributed throughout it. It, like all other membranes, on being macerated, exhibits a *fibrous* texture, and the fibres possess a contractile power, and the difference noticed between a membranous and a muscular fibre, which appears on microscopical examination, noticed by some minute anatomists, has been attended with no practical advantage. A great proportion of the urethral tube is surrounded by muscular fibres, and the spongy body around it, on being distended, no doubt has an effect on the urethral membrane similar to that of a muscle.

To ascertain a point, which Messrs. Bell and Shaw consider of great importance in the practice of surgery, the latter gentleman has very properly had recourse to comparative anatomy. "I have," says he, "not been able to discover *any fibres* in the membrane of the urethra of a *man*, of a *horse*, or of an *ass*; within two inches of the glass of a *bull*, there are a set of fibres which meet at a point, and *resemble* muscular fibres; but the urethra is possessed of so great a degree of elasticity in this animal, that we may suppose them to be of the same order of fibres as those which are seen in the spongy body." The membrane remaining elastic after death, the learned gentleman concludes, "that its contractility is not owing to *irritability* belonging to the *living* part, but to elasticity."!!!

The peculiar structure of the urethral canal, this minute observer supposes he has discovered to consist of *veins* of the lining of that portion of the urethra, termed membranous, being distributed differently to those of the other part, forming something like a net-work of *veins*. Some years ago, he had by chance filled some of these vessels in the upper part of the urethra, and he *then* thought he had made a *new* discovery; but, says he, "I was rather checked in the pleasure of think-

ing I had made a discovery, on being told by Mr. Bell that the same vessels had been described by Dr. Barclay." To satisfy those members of the Chiro-Medical Society who were present at the time his paper was read, he "placed on the table the bladder and lower part of the urethra of a stallion poney, (pony), in order to explain satisfactorily many points of the *human* urethra." As the learned gentleman stated to the society, that he also examined the urethra of an *ass*, he should also have paid the society the compliment of exhibiting it. In this long communication from Mr. Shaw, we discover nothing like novelty, or one practical remark that throws any light on the nature of stricture, or suggestion of any practical utility. We advise this society of physicians, surgeons, and *esquires*, to pay a little more respect to the subscribers to their works, by selecting articles of real merit, and to pay less respect, as Mr. Bell observes, to *names*.

Mr. Bell gives a description of an instrument he has invented to ascertain the extent of a stricture, and also the number that may exist. It consists of a small ball fixed to the end of a wire. "When this ball," says Mr. Bell, "has passed the stricture, and the surgeon can therefore *play* the instrument freely, and judge accurately of the state of the canal below, if he should come in contact with a second or a third, he may examine them with the same sensibility of touch as the first; he cannot do so with the bougie; for if the bougie was introduced for the purpose of examining a stricture, it would be embraced by it, and give no information as to the state of the canal beyond it." One very great objection to this instrument is, that after passing a stricture, a degree of spasm frequently comes on, to such an extent, particularly in an irritable urethra, as to render it impossible to withdraw it without considerable force, and if the ball were to be detached, and of course left behind, a formidable operation would be necessary to extract it. By the use of this instrument, a surgeon cannot discover a *spasmodic* from an *organic* stricture, and in the former case the contracted part is often to the extent of half an inch; and in such case, if the surgeon were to consider the stricture to be from organic disease, he might be induced to adopt a practice that might be productive of serious consequences. The extent of a stricture may be easily ascertained by examining the seat of the stricture externally, by means of the "sensibility of touch," at the time the bougie is introduced as far as it will go, without much force. The operation of examining the urethra by the urethra *probe*, the learned gentleman terms "*sounding* the urethra."!!

Mr. Bell, like Mr. Abernethy and others, has met with cases of stricture, which were cured by attending to the state of the stomach and bowels. In those cases the affection of the urethra was sympathetic, and of course spasmodic. He has also met with cases where the stomach and bowels were evidently disordered, in consequence of stricture of the urethra; "not only the parts in the neighbourhood, as the prostate gland, the bladder, and ureters, are often inflamed;" but, he is satisfied, "that effusion on the surface of the brain, and even *pulmonary* consumption are the consequences of stricture of the urethra."!! He has, likewise, met with a case, which had been for years treated as stricture, which was cured by giving up the use of the bougies, and attending

to the state of the health. Similar cases were noticed by Mr. Abernethy, in his Surgical Lectures, upwards of twenty years ago.

In speaking of different caustics, Mr. Bell says, "In former editions of this work, I have shown *considerable* partiality for the use of the *kali purum*, as a caustic in the cure of stricture. I have found it to *diminish* the *sensibility* of stricture. I have found it well adapted to *lubricate* the stricture, and facilitate the entry of the bougie. I have found it to assist the operation of the bougie in dilating the stricture."!

The *kali purum* (*potassa*) is the most powerful caustic used by surgeons, to destroy morbid or natural parts; and we suspect, from Mr. Bell's assertion that it is useful to *lubricate* a stricture, the learned gentleman made his experiments on a *dead* body, for every surgeon, acquainted with the article, must be aware that this caustic, when it comes in contact with the membrane of the urethra, uniformly produces a most acute pain and the most distressing degree of inflammation. Is it not then most ridiculous to talk of *lubricating* the urethra with such an article, for the purpose of facilitating the passing of a bougie?

As to the *sensibility* of a stricture, we are satisfied, that the substance forming an *organic stricture* is insensible, although the membrane close to it is, in general, in a state of increased sensibility. When the *strictured part* is sensible, it is not a proper case for caustic; in that case, it must be spasmodic.

We have very attentively laboured through every page of Mr. Bell's voluminous production, without being able to detect *any thing* like originality, except the probe, for *sounding* the urethra. We have met with many puerile remarks, which, on considering they came from a "Teacher of Surgery," brought our risible muscles involuntarily into spasmodic action.

The following extracts afford amusing proofs of Mr. Bell's *superior* surgical skill, and that liberality which in general distinguishes the man of science from the pretender.

"A patient came to me, after having been under *four* *SURGEONS*, for the cure of a stricture of the urethra. On *sounding* the urethra, I found no obstruction, nor any *unusual* tenderness in the passage."!

"A gentleman came to me and told me that he believed his surgeon got tired of him, and one day, instead of proceeding as he had done, forced a *large* silver catheter into his bladder; he fainted from the *violence* of the pain; he lost a great deal of blood from the operation, and in the evening was seized with a cold shivering, which was succeeded by *fever* AND *ague*, which lasted many days."!! "On sending for Dr. Curry, the *Doctor* made *no difficulty* in stating, in the *strongest* terms, the *cruelty* and *stupidity* of the surgeon's conduct, and after conducting him with *some difficulty* through an illness, with a constitution shattered by this violence, he sent him to the country." On his return to town, he applied to Mr. Bell. "On examining the urethra, I found," says Mr. Bell, "a very narrow stricture at the bulb; it cut a small bougie *very deep*. The urine came sometimes in a small stream, but generally in drops. The stricture had returned in a much worse degree than before."

"It is well known that *MANY* *surgeons* in *this* country are in the

daily habit of *forcibly* DRIVING iron-sounds into the urethra."!!! "The surgeons who follow this practice in London, are said to proceed on the authority of the continental writers, who *have been*, from some erroneous impressions, supposed to *have been* very successful in curing strictures by violence."!!

In the narrative of a case of extravasation of urine in the scrotum, from bursting of the urethra, Mr. Bell observes, "the usual attendant being sent for, I *heard* opinions and *saw* practice, which I could not have believed to have prevailed in the *alleys* of London, though well aware that they are as distant from *science and the schools*, as if they were *placed* in the antipodes."!!! "He informed me, that he had introduced the catheter, and had by *inhalation* discovered, that there was no urine in the bladder. The swelling of the scrotum he termed inflammation."!!!

"After emptying the canal (intestines) with castor oil, and tincture of senna, *preserve* the *intestinal SURFACE* in *activity* by combinations of ipecacuanha, rhubarb, and *powder of chalk with opium*, or a combination of antimonial powder with rhubarb and extract of *white poppies*, or *it may be*, that it will suit better, to give the lenitive electuary with sulphur, or *sharpened* by the addition of jalap or castor oil. But, superior to all, in *some constitutions*, is a teaspoonful or two teaspoonfuls of the balsam copaiba taken at night."!!!

"By the pressure of the bougie, an *action* is excited in the *stricture*, and the activity of the vessels adapts the form of the canal to the state of the dilatation."!!! "We must not forget that to *give pain*, is to induce a *tendency* to contraction in the stricture."

In the case of an out-patient, Mr. Bell observes, "the Report states, that a *singular* change has taken place, for when the patient was first brought in, his *pulse being low* and intermitting, and his features *shrunk and haggard*, he appeared above fifty, now he is in his *natural CHARACTER*, of a *great good-natured* fellow of thirty, that would run his *round black head* into any kind of mischief to shew his gratitude."!!

"What was remarkable, was an abscess, formed, *no doubt, by irritation*, in the cavernous body of the penis, and from the same cause, an abscess had formed *upon* the outer covering of the prostate gland."!!

"The urethra is improperly termed a cylinder, because the sides, when not distended, are in a state of collapse."!!!

"As to the *white matter* which is attached to the lunar caustic, on withdrawing the bougie, I know not what to think of a surgeon who can suppose this *concrete* to be a *true slough*."!!

Speaking of the occasional obstruction to the discharge of urine, from spasms, Mr. Bell observes, "but the patient is deceived, and what is of more consequence, the *Surgeon is also in error*, for it can be shown, that this spasm is not in the *stricture itself*, but that it is a spasmodic action of the muscles, surrounding the urethra."!!

In every chapter, and in almost every case the author has given, we find some liberal remark on the *ignorance* of surgeons, which he and his coadjutor, Mr. Shaw, no doubt, think admirably "calculated to produce a deep impression on the minds of their readers," and to answer their *benevolent* object. We, however, entertain a much higher opinion

of the abilities of the surgeons of this country, than to suppose that there is one to be found in it so grossly ignorant of the principles of surgery as to be "in the daily habit of forcibly driving iron sounds into the urethra in cases of stricture;" one who would attempt to empty the bladder of urine by inhalation; one who could suppose the white concrete adhering to the lunar caustic, after introduction into the urethra, was true slough; one who would pronounce the kali purum to be capable of allaying irritation in the urethra, and beneficial in lubricating the internal membrane; one who would talk of spasm in a stricture, abscesses produced by irritation, &c. We are, certainly, not so well acquainted with the abilities of the surgeons who were educated at the Windmill-street school, under the superintendence of Mr. Bell, and the excellent anatomist and able surgeon of practical information, Mr. Shaw, as those who received their professional education at Bartholomew's-hospital. However proud the former may be of Messrs. Bell and Shaw's work; for, it appears by Mr. Bell's advertisement, "the publication of the work was hastened by the solicitation of his pupils," there is not one among the latter, who would consent to his name appearing in the title-page, as the author.

Mr. Bingham states, that, having attended some interesting cases of irritable bladder and diseased prostate gland, he thought, as they were successfully treated, it might, in some degree, be useful to lay the particulars before the public; but, in arranging his notes for this purpose, he "was led to see the close connexion which exists between diseases of the prostate gland, strictures of the urethra, retention of urine, and some affections of the kidneys;" and he has been, in consequence, induced to make some observations upon those maladies. He very judiciously points out the necessity of attending to the constitution in cases of local diseases. "This," says he, "is a point of vast importance, and however well it may be understood by some individuals, it is by no means sufficiently so by the profession at large." He thinks "it never is learnt thoroughly; and it may be with truth asserted, that the want of this knowledge occasions more reproach upon the practice of surgery than any thing else—the neglect or mismanagement of the constitutional treatment, often renders very trifling and simple cases complicated, serious, sometimes incurable, and even fatal." Mr. Bingham, although he has extended his book to a twelve shilling volume, has noticed only the variety of strictures. The consideration of irritable bladder, diseased prostate gland, &c. he has reserved for another book. Permanent stricture is said to depend on alteration of structure in the part; but Mr. Bingham doubts whether this is always the case; for, says he, "I have examined some preparations, in which the contraction extended equally all round the urethra, and the parts included in the contraction appeared of a closer and more compact texture, simply because they occupied less space than when they were in a healthy state." He supposes the parts had been held in a contracted state until grown rigid and unyielding; upon the same principle, as muscular fibres, in other parts, become fixed, of which we have an example in irremediable locked jaw. The effusion of lymph, the consequence of inflammation, produces thickening; but the lymph being afterwards absorbed, the substance of the parts, although contracted and unyielding, is healthy, and therefore Mr. Bingham concludes that diseased structure does not exist. If a part be rendered rigid

er unyielding, in consequence of adhesion of fibres or obliteration of cells of the cellular substance of a viscus or a muscle, we should say that structural disease exists although the muscular *fibres* are free from disease. Deposit of lymph in, or obliteration of, the cells of the parenchyma of the lungs or liver, we conceive to constitute what is termed *organic* disease; and where a stricture is occasioned by adhesion of fibres of the membrane, or by deposit of lymph, it may be termed organic stricture or stricture from morbid structure, inasmuch as the part is rendered incapable of dilatation, in consequence of alteration in the organization of the part.

Mr. Bingham fancies he has discovered a very useful auxiliary to the bougie, which, "so far as he can learn, has never before been employed in the cure of stricture," viz. the strong mercurial ointment. Having met with a case which resisted the usual modes of treatment, "he determined to introduce a bougie smeared with this ointment. On seeing the patient a fortnight afterwards, he told him he had been more relieved by the besmeared bougie than by any thing else that had been done. On the expiration of another week, the operation was repeated with an equal degree of benefit. In four days more he called on him, when he told him that every symptom had disappeared, and on introducing the bougie no stricture was discoverable." In the course of his practice, Mr. Bingham states he has cured six cases of stricture by this mode of treatment. To three of these, other remedies had been applied without any good result, but *immediate* improvement followed the use of the strong mercurial ointment.

The use of the mercurial ointment by means of a bougie, or of a mercurial bougie, in cases of disease of the urethra, and also of the rectum, is an old practice; and in cases of spasmodic stricture, attended with mucous discharge, generally proves beneficial, and it appears to us that the cases in which Mr. Bingham found the mode of treatment successful, were of this kind.

Mr. Bingham thinks he has met with cases in which a frequent change of remedies has proved more beneficial than a *steady* perseverance in one. That his patients may derive every possible advantage from this system, he has introduced three new articles, which he considers *mild caustics*; viz. the carbonate of soda, carbonate of potass, and dried natron, or dried subcarbonate of soda. The dried natron and sub-carbonate of potass are capable of stimulating the urethra, but not of operating as a *caustic*; and as to the carbonate of soda, it is so mild as to be scarcely capable of increasing the sensibility of the membrane of the urethra. The apparent effects of the dried natron and the sub-carbonate of potass are so very similar, that he has not as yet been able to discover any remarkable difference. The *dried natron* is much more stimulating than the carbonate of potass. To prove that his remarks on the dried natron are correct, he gives a quotation from Dr. Duncan's *Edinburgh Dispensatory*, on *pure soda*, a caustic no less powerful than the pure potass, or the infernal stone!!! The *dried natron* is the sub-carbonate of soda, deprived of the water of crystallization, which, compared to the pure soda, is a *mild* article. The author, we presume, supposes that by exsiccation the sub-carbonate of soda undergoes some chemical change; for we find a solution of it in the infu-

sion of gentian recommended to be taken as a stomachic! On applying it to the urethra, he states, he has not found it so soluble as the carbonate of potass, and therefore he is disposed to give the latter the preference!! Now had he employed it in the same state as he did the carbonate of potass, viz. not dried, he would have found it equally soluble, and he would also have been convinced that the pain it sometimes produced was not from its *mechanical* operation, as he supposes, but from its *chemical* action.

Mr. Arnott fancies that the new method of "shortening the misery of the disease, and which promises a radical cure, where the means hitherto practised could only palliate symptoms," discovered by his brother, Dr. Arnott, fifteen years ago, fully justifies his making a seven shilling book on the subject. "Some years ago," says Mr. Arnott, "my brother, the doctor, during an inquiry to what greater extent the principles of the collateral branches of science might be applied to the improvement of medicine, contrived a *dilator*, an instrument (in the opinion of *Surgeon Arnott*), admirably calculated to produce the ends desired, and which obviates the defects of the means at present in use." Although the scientific doctor "was *fully* aware of the *great importance* of this instrument in the treatment of diseases of the urethra, &c. he was so much engaged in *other* practice and in *professional pursuits*, tending to more *general* application, that he took few opportunities of attending to its use in practice; it was, however, his design to include an account of it among observations on some other *medical* subjects which he intends for the press"!! After being satisfied, by experience, that "few diseases are productive of more distress than stricture or narrowing of the urethra," to allow such an important mode of *curing* it, to remain dormant for *many* years, no philanthropist will attempt to dispute his claim to the title of a Christian. The promulgation of this important discovery was reserved for *Surgeon Arnott*, who, luckily for *strictured* patients, "returned from the East Indies in *one* ship, in a good state of *health*, and during his *last* voyage, his attention was *particularly* directed to the subject of stricture, in consequence of having under his care many cases of it, *invalid* soldiers, who had been long *there*, and whose constitutions, debilitated by the climate and *its* diseases, were ill adapted for bearing the *additional* miseries of this troublesome complaint." "There is," says the learned Surgeon, "no time or situation more favourable for the study of any *particular* disease, than when it occurs *extensively* on shipboard"!! The dilator consists of "a tube of oiled silk, lined with the *thin gut* of some small animal, to make it air tight, attached *upon* the extremity of a small canula, by which it is distended with air or water, from a bag or syringe, at the outer end, with a stop-cock or valve, to keep the air in when received. It is made capable of *assuming* and *retaining* *ANY* shape and magnitude, when in the canal. It is capable of *EXERTING* *distending* force to *ANY* degree"!!!

For the information of those who do not understand the phenomena of *fluid* pressure, the philosophical Surgeon flatters himself "the following short exposition will be acceptable." "Suppose," says he, "a vessel filled with *any* fluid, and having an opening in its circumference;

were pressure made on the fluid at *that* opening, as by an attempt to force more fluid into the vessel, this pressure would be *immediately* communicated *through the fluid* to *all* the parts of the internal surface of the vessel, and quite equally; so that, if the hole were of an inch square, and a pressure of ten pounds were made upon it, every square inch of the vessel's surface would be immediately bearing the same degree." Now, if the sides of the vessel are of a yielding nature, and have a strong band around its centre, the pressure will not bear on the bandage or compressing part, till the other parts are distended to their full extent. Supposing, therefore, the half of the silk bag, lined with the gut of a small animal, be passed beyond a stricture, no pressure would fall on the stricture till the part behind and before the stricture be fully distended; and if they be capable, as the learned Surgeon observes, of being extended to *any* extent, either posteriorly or anteriorly to the stricture, the bag would give way before the strictured part, inasmuch as the sides are more yielding. The inferences of the learned Surgeon, although founded, as he supposes, "on *hydrostatic paradox*," are not correct. The person who can pass such an instrument through a stricture, so as to bring it into operation, can have little or no reason to complain of a diminution of the capacity of the urethral canal. We should suppose, in such a case, the stricture existed more in the *brain* than in the urethra, a complaint which, fortunately for stricture surgeons, is very prevalent. We have met with cases of spasmodic and organic stricture, in which this dilator has been tried, but never with one of either in which it proved of the smallest service. This experienced Surgeon, in cases of stricture, asserts that the caustic *allays* irritation in the urethra, and therefore, when a stricture, or the membrane close to it, is very irritable, he recommends it to be introduced *beyond* the stricture, so that it may be applied to the membrane"!!! The membrane of the urethra, *behind* a stricture, is always so very thin, in consequence of over-distention of it by the urine, from the action of the detrusor urinæ and its auxiliary muscles, that one application of the caustic would so far destroy it, that on the next attempt to force the urine through the strictured part, the membrane would give way, in which case the urine would be forced into the cellular substance of the scrotum, &c. and such serious mischief would follow, as would probably prove fatal in a few days.

After stating "that the eighth of an inch of a stricture should be destroyed by *every* application of a caustic," we suspect the author has had few opportunities of observing the *results* of the practice he recommends.

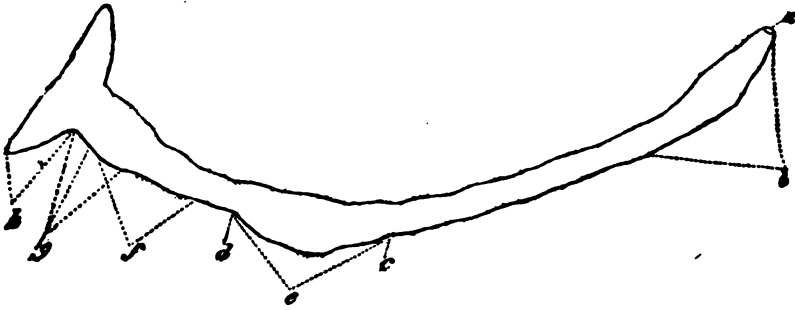
OF THE URETHRA.

By the term urethra is meant the canal commencing at the neck of the bladder, and terminating in the orifice at the end of the penis, termed *glans penis*. It is so named, because the urine is expelled through it. For the purpose of acquainting our non-medical readers with the dimensions of different parts of this canal, the seats of stricture and morbid irritation, and the parts which particularly merit attention, on introducing a bougie, we have taken a cast of one, with

wax on a dead subject, of which the following is a representation, reduced to one-third the natural size.

The Urethra of an Adult reduced to one-third the natural size.

Fig. 1.



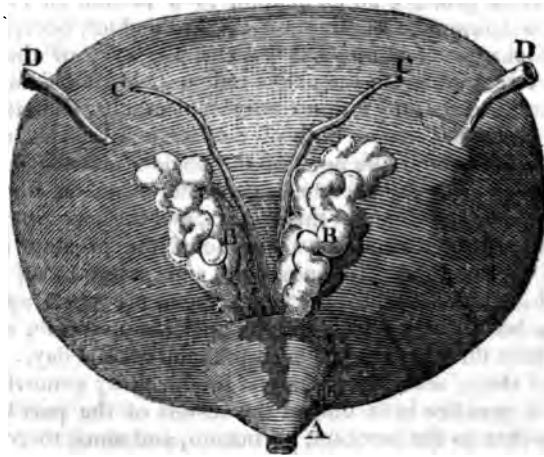
- a. The orifice.
- b. The seat of gonorrhœa.
- c. The anterior sphincter of the receptacle of the prostatic and seminal secretions.
- d. The posterior sphincter of ditto.
- e. The receptacle of the prostatic and seminal secretion.
- f. The situation of the caput gallinaginis, where the ducts of the prostate gland and seminal vesicles terminate.
- g. The prostatic portion of the urethra.
- h. The neck of the bladder.

By the above sketch the reader will observe that the orifice (a) is much narrower than any part of the canal; that within a short distance of the orifice, it varies very little, till it arrives at (b), when it dilates, commencing what is termed the *bulb* of the urethra. This part, which is seated in the peritonæum, just behind the testicles, is a very important one. It is the receptacle of the secretion of the testicles (semen), and that of the prostate gland, which appears to be merely a vehicle for conveying the semen out of the urethra. Each end of this receptacle (c and d) acts as a kind of sphincter, the anterior retaining the secretions till the bulbous part (e) is distended, and the posterior preventing its regurgitation, when the muscular fibres surrounding it are brought into action, for the purpose of propelling the secretions through the canal. These parts are subject to the thickening, constituting *organic stricture*, particularly the posterior portion (d). In an irritable urethra, where organic disease does not exist, they afford an obstacle to the passing of a bougie or catheter. The posterior part is more frequently the seat of *spasmodic stricture* than any other portion of the canal. Between the posterior sphincter and the bladder, the canal is much narrower. In this portion there is an eminence termed the *caput gallinaginis* (f), around which the orifices of the ducts which convey the secretions of the testicles and prostatic gland, terminate. This part is generally very sensible, and in very nervous subjects, so strong a sympathy often exists

between it and the brain, stomach, or heart, that the touching of it with an instrument often produces nausea or fainting. In young subjects tumefaction or morbid sensibility of this part is often mistaken for stricture.—It is generally attended with tenderness or swelling of the spermatic cord or testicles, and most usually with nocturnal emissions. The membrane being surrounded with muscular fibres, this portion (from *d.* to *h.*) is also the seat of *spasmodic* stricture; and in consequence of the contraction of the muscles, the curvature it makes towards the bladder and an exterior ligament, which fastens the canal to the arch of the bone above (a ligament descending exteriorly near the prostate gland), patients or inexperienced practitioners often find great difficulty in passing an instrument into the bladder. Organic disease of the prostate gland, by altering the direction of the canal passing through it, also affords great impediment to the passing either of a catheter or a flexible bougie. The end of a small bougie is sometimes entangled in the mouth of a prostatic duct, and by the frequent introduction of a bougie, in this direction, we have known artificial openings made into the bladder, and notwithstanding the bougie took a wrong direction, the patients fancied themselves benefited by every introduction.

The following is a representation of the Back Part of the Male Bladder, which lies over the Rectum.

(Fig. 2.)



- A. The prostate gland.
- B. B. The seminal vesicles.
- C. C. The vasa deferentia, or tubes, which convey the semen from the testicles to the seminal vesicles, C. C.
- D. D. The ureters, which convey the urine from the kidneys to the bladder.

The extensive continuation of the membrane lining the urethra merits particular attention, as it accounts for some unpleasant affections of adjacent parts, attendant on organic stricture, and also for the sup-

position of stricture, where no stricture existed. The membrane from the prostate gland extends over the internal surface of the bladder up the ureters to the kidneys. It also extends through the ducts of the seminal vesicles (See fig. 2, A.), the internal surface of these vesicles, the ducts, termed the *vasa deferentia*, and the convoluted vessels attached to the testicles, termed the *epididymes*. The membranous lining of these appendages to the testicles, is often affected with gonorrhœal inflammation, not in consequence of the use of *astringent* injections, as generally supposed, but of the matter of gonorrhœa being conveyed to the mouths of the seminal ducts by an injection; for, if the matter be not removed from the seat of gonorrhœa (See *a.* and *b.* fig. 1.) immediately prior to the use of the mildest injection, even warm milk, by carrying it to the mouths of the ducts (*f.* fig. 1.), will produce it. When the inflammation has extended to an epididymis (producing what is termed swelled testicle) the primary affection, viz. the specific inflammation of the urethral membrane and discharge, generally cease. The seat of the inflammation is now only removed. Hence the necessity of washing out the urethra, by evacuating the bladder, previously to the use of an injection, as pointed out in the Appendix. After these ducts and vesicles have been affected with gonorrhœal inflammation, a troublesome degree of irritation often continues, which is very frequently attributed to stricture of the urethra or diseased prostate gland, in consequence of the irritation appearing to be seated in the prostate gland or membranous portion of the urethra, and extending from nervous connexion to the rectum, so as to produce an inclination to a motion on evacuating the bladder, or a spasmodic contraction of the bladder, occasioning an involuntary discharge of urine, and pain at the neck of the bladder, on emptying the rectum. On the active inflammation subsiding, the membrane continues to secrete a thin transparent mucus, sometimes in such quantity as to distend one or both of the seminal vesicles, and produce a sense of fulness about the neck of the bladder and the rectum. The mucus escaping into the urethra, is generally mistaken for gleet, or a chronic or irritative affection of the urethra, and the accompanying symptoms are frequently attributed to disease of the prostate gland, or to stricture of the urethra. Inflammation and irritation of the seminal vesicles and ducts, leading to and from them, are often aggravated by the use of a bougie, and sometimes by aperient medicine, when it operates more than three or four times in the course of a day. During the inflammatory stage, when the disease is produced by gonorrhœal matter, the object of practice is to unload the vessels of the part by the application of leeches to the scrotum, perinæum, and anus, to reproduce the primary affection by injecting warm liquid, and the other means recommended for Swelled Testicles, in the Appendix, fol. x. The second stage being attended with considerable irritation, the first object of treatment is to quiet the nervous system. For this purpose, the saturated tincture of Buchu leaves, may be administered as directed, fol. lxxvi. This remedy, with a corresponding diet, and such auxiliary medicines as the state of bowels, &c. may indicate, we have uniformly found to succeed. If the disease should not entirely cease in the course of a fortnight, the decoction of poppy heads may be injected into the rectum and urethra, and the volatile camphorated liniment may be applied to the perinæum, scrotum, and lower part of the backbone. If the membranous lining of

the urethra should begin a state of morbid excitement, the treatment recommended for spasmodic stricture will also be necessary. (See Spasmodic Stricture, fol. lxvii.) A gleetty affection of the seminal vesicles and ducts leading to and from relaxation. This disease is accompanied with flaccidity of the scrotum and penis, and a varicose state of the veins of the latter. The seminal vesicles in such cases are frequently so distended with mucus, that a quantity is forced into the urethra during stool, and is evacuated at the time, or immediately after it, and is generally considered by the ignorant to be semen. Injections of the decoction of oak bark, or the pomegranate rind into the rectum and urethra, a tonic medicine, as the tincture of rhatany root and cubebs, cold bathing, electricity, nourishing diet, sea-air, and such remedies as the state of the viscera and blood-vessels may indicate, are the means which have succeeded best in this disease. In obstinate cases the inhalation of oxygen has proved a most powerful auxiliary to the above remedies.

OF STRICTURES OF THE URETHRA.

OF urethral stricture there are two kinds, viz. the *spasmodic*, arising from morbid irritability, and *organic*, from thickening, or change of structure in a part of the membranous lining, &c. of the urethra. When *organic stricture* is attended with morbid irritability or spasms, it has been termed *mixed stricture*, and such distinction is of some practical utility; for in such case it is the duty of the surgeon to allay excessive irritation or spasm, before he has recourse either to mechanical or chemical means of removing the diseased structure.

Having noticed (See Appendix, fol. xxxiii.) the treatment of both species of stricture, we have now only to acquaint our readers with the discoveries that have been made since the publication of that work. The books which have lately appeared on the subject, have induced us to pay very particular attention to the treatment of the different species of stricture, and other diseases in or connected with the urethra, and the numerous cases we have had under our care, in consequence of the publication of the Appendix, have enabled us to prosecute our inquiries, and to carry our ideas into execution. The result of that practice has satisfied us that organic stricture* is a very rare disease, and that it is always

* Organic stricture has been attributed, by Mr. Cline, Sir A. Cooper and other surgeons, to the use of injections for the cure of gonorrhœa. Mr. Cline, ascribing the frequency of secondary symptoms of *syphilis* to absorption of the matter of gonorrhœa, in consequence of the use of an injection, never prescribes an injection in a case of gonorrhœa. Stricture is, no doubt, often occasioned by the *improper* use of an injection; but when employed (agreeably to the directions we have given in the Appendix, p. iv.) it is more likely to *prevent* than to *occasion* stricture. Certain it is, that the strictured patients we have met with, had been under those surgeons, who pretend to cure gonorrhœa without an injection. Several had been under their care many months for a simple case of the disease, which, by an injection, properly employed, might

more or less attended with morbid irritation or spasm. The *spasmodic* kind is very common, and, we have no doubt, is frequently treated as *organic* with caustic, to the irreparable injury of the patients, many having been rendered miserable for life by the effects of caustic, and by the rough introduction of a large bougie, which, some surgeons contend, does less injury than a small one*.

The affection of the seminal ducts and bladders, and tumefaction or irritation of the caput gallinaginis, (see *f. fig. 1.*) noticed fol. lxiv, is also very frequently mistaken for the stricture, and the consequent treatment has been productive of great misery.

When the part of the urethra is so far contracted by diseased structure, as to allow the urine to escape only by drops, or in a very small stream, and to admit only the smallest bougie, the destruction of a part of the organic mischief by a caustic is necessary, to prevent rupture of the membrane on the posterior side, which in such case is always very thin, from over-distention; but the system should be prepared for it, i. e. the disease should be rendered as local as possible, and a state of body produced unfavourable to inflammatory action. If the membrane be in a state of irritation, or if the stricture be of the mixed kind, the object of practice is to convert it into simple stricture, by the use of an anodyne

have been cured in as many days. Organic stricture, is, in fact, more the consequence of long-continued gonorrhoeal inflammation, or irritation, than the use of injections; and, therefore, an injection, when properly employed, is the best means of preventing it, by terminating the inflammation before structural mischief is produced. We beg to ask those surgeons who condemn the use of injections in gonorrhoea, if, in case of the same specific inflammation of the conjunctive tunic of the eye, they would not employ a lotion? In such a case, if a lotion, (which is the same as an injection, in case of gonorrhoea) were not to be employed, thickening or structural disease of the tunic would soon take place, so as to occasion blindness. If it be proper in one case, it must also be proper in the other. It may not be *professional* policy to employ an injection, or to terminate a disease by art, in a few days, which will run as many months, if topical remedies be not employed; but we are certain if mild injections were more frequently prescribed, with *proper directions* for their use, stricture of the urethra, affections of the prostate gland, &c. would be more rare.

* The effect of a caustic, where structural or organic stricture does not exist, is a thickening which advances to organic stricture. We have met with several gentlemen, some of whom had been told twenty-five years ago, by a then eminent stricture surgeon, that their sufferings arose from organic stricture, which would only yield to caustic. They, however, refused to submit to the remedy, and in the course of a few months the disease terminated, without having recourse to any mode of treatment, either constitutional or topical. Now, had these gentlemen placed implicit confidence in the opinion of their surgeon, and the caustic had been applied, instead of being free from any affection of the urethra, prostate gland, or bladder, as they now are, they would be suffering occasionally, or constantly, from the effect of caustic.

injection. This is, in all cases of organic stricture, necessary, for unless the disease be rendered simple, no surgeon can say, whether the state which apparently renders the use of a caustic necessary, does not, in a great measure, arise from spasm, and that on reducing the attendant irritation, it may not be a proper case for bougie. The object of applying caustic, is to destroy a proportion of the surface of the diseased structure, so as to admit of the smallest bougie being introduced. The cure is afterwards to be completed by this instrument, by advancing gradually to the largest size. For the purpose of allaying excessive sensibility or excitement, we have found the olive oil, impregnated with the anodyne properties of belladonna, applied to the part, by means of the flexible syringe bougie, (see fol. lxxiii) to answer best*.

In some cases of stricture which had been pronounced organic, and condemned to the caustic, we have found this injection, in the course of a few hours, to produce such a relaxation of the stricture, as to admit of a middle-sized bougie passing with facility, and the cases were afterwards cured by the bougie. (See fol. lxxii. fig. 3.) The result of those cases proves that the strictures were more spasmodic than organic, and that the inconvenience to the patient was the consequence of spasmodic contraction. During the use of a bougie, it is of great importance to administer a medicine capable of allaying morbid irritability of the bladder and urethra, as the infusion or saturated tincture of Buchu leaves, noticed fol. lxxviii. See also, bougies, fol. lxxi.

The parts of the urethra most subject to spasms or spasmodic stricture, are those which we have denominated the anterior and posterior sphincters of the receptacle of the prostatic and seminal secretions. The anterior is very rarely so, and when it is, it generally gives way to the remedies which quiet the system, and improve the general health. When the disease is seated in the posterior sphincter, it is often very distressing, particularly after an abuse of wine, &c. when the stricture is often so complete as not to admit of the introduction of the smallest bougie, and the urine to escape only by drops. In cases of spasmodic stricture, the patient has generally some difficulty in passing the urine, even to the seat of the stricture, in consequence of the irritability of the prostate gland, and the posterior portion of the urethra. The stream, at first, is very small, often forked, or in the form of a corkscrew, but after it has flowed a few seconds, it becomes larger, and towards the close, the urine is thrown out in jerks. By gradual increase of the stream, the spasmodic stricture may often be distinguished from the simple organic; and how far the irritable organic is aggravated by spasm, may be ascertained by it.

The injection of the oil, noticed above, by means of the flexible metallic syringe bougie, (see page lxxiii. fig. 4.), with the internal use of the Buchu leaves, and such remedies as the general state of the body indicated, we have uniformly found to succeed in the speedy cure of spasmodic stricture. In order to destroy, effectually, the predisposi-

* This oil is much recommended for this purpose in a very useful little work lately published under the title of the "New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia."

lxx *Gleet.—Morbid Irritability of the Bladder.*

tion in the parts to the disease, the use of the bougie twice a week, and attention to the general health, will be necessary for two or three months.

The spasmodic stricture is however often brought on by the improper use of a bougie, employed under the idea that the symptoms indicate organic stricture. That a temporary spasmodic stricture of the posterior sphincter of the bulbous portion of the urethra, may be brought on by irritating the part with a bougie, must be evident to every surgeon who has been in the habit of introducing a bougie; for on allowing a plaster-bougie to remain in an urethra, free from stricture, till it excites irritation, it will be grasped by this sphincture so strongly as to produce a considerable impression on it, giving the idea of the existence of stricture, and by it many patients have been led, by unprincipled or ignorant surgeons, to suppose that they were really afflicted with permanent stricture. Many thousands indeed have not only been reduced to poverty, but rendered miserable for life, by the confidence they have placed in the false promises of advertising quacks*. See Bougie.

GLEET.—For the cure of this disease, we have found the following mixture more beneficial than the one we have recommended, page xiv. of the Appendix.

Take of Saturated Tincture of Cubebs, an ounce and half.

Inf. of Buchu Leaves, six ounces.

Mix.—Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day.

If the bowels should not be sufficiently relieved every day, a tea-spoonful or two of the chalybeate Epsom salt (noticed in the 68th Number of the Gazette of Health) may be taken every, or every other, morning, in a quarter of a pint of tepid water.

Gouty and very nervous people are subject to irritative gleet, often attended with symptoms of stricture. Sometimes the irritation runs so high as to produce all the symptoms of gonorrhœa. This disease soon yields to the injection recommended in the Appendix, page xiii; the following mixture, and such other remedies as the state of the bowels, head, &c. may indicate:

Take of Infusion of Buchu Leaves, seven ounces.

Tincture of Cubebs, one ounce.

————— Colchicum seeds, half an ounce.

Mix.—Three table-spoonsful to be taken two or three times a day.

MORBID IRRITABILITY OF THE BLADDER.—Since the publication of the Appendix we have met with several distressing cases of this disease, which were effectually cured by the Buchu leaves, after a variety of remedies, under the direction of eminent practitioners, had failed. (See cases, fol. lxxx) In one case, of many years standing, it restored the patient, at the age of fifty-five, to health, after his disease had

* A surgeon, in London, who has been long eminent for superior skill in the discovery of stricture of the urethra, in patients who were not sensible of having any affection of the urethra, generally finds, on examination, the cause of their complaints to depend on strictural irritation, and the fortunate result of his discovery, has cost many a man years of misery.

been pronounced hopeless, and his life appeared to be gradually drawing to a termination; an event which his acute sufferings often induced him to implore. This case we have already noticed in the 64th Number of the Gazette of Health. Another case was that of a lady, who had not been able to retain her urine for a longer period than an hour and a half, for many years. After taking the saturated tincture of the Buchu leaves one fortnight, she experienced no inconvenience whatever about the bladder, and did not want to evacuate it oftener than once in twelve hours. She was, in consequence, able to enter again into the society of friends, which she had been obliged to give up, in consequence of her affliction.

The dose of this tincture is from three tea-spoonsful two or three times a day in a glass of barley water, or, in case of long standing, in the infusion of the leaves. See Buchu Leaves, p. lxxviii.

When the disease is attended with a bloody or slimy discharge from the bladder, the tincture of cubebs should be added to the infusion, &c. of Buchu leaves, in the following proportions:

Take of Saturated Tincture of Cubebs, two ounces.

————— Buchu Leaves, two ounces.

Inf. of Buchu Leaves, eight ounces.

Mix.—Two table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day.

In such affections of the bladder, particular attention should be paid to the state of the stomach, bowels, and blood-vessels. See Appendix, page xliii. If attended with indigestion no other stomachic medicine is necessary than the Buchu leaves.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE PROSTATE GLAND.—The following mixture, with the alterative pills, recommended page xli of the Appendix, we have found to succeed, in several desperate cases, to allay the morbid irritation attendant on this disease, and gradually to subdue the mischief.

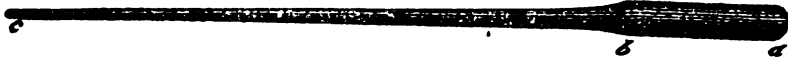
Take of Saturated Tincture of Buchu Leaves, one ounce.

————— Infusion of Buchu Leaves, eight ounces.

Mix.—Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day.

When the parts become quiet, an introduction of the compound plaster bougie is generally productive of great benefit.

OF BOUGIES.—In page xxxvi of the Appendix, we have made some observations on medicated bougies. It has been said, that the beneficial effects of bougies arise from their mechanical operation; that by compressing the diseased structure, the absorbent vessels are brought into action, so as to remove or diminish the diseased part. No surgeon has been so successful in the treatment of stricture, spasmodic and organic, as the late M. Duran, of Paris, and he attributed his success in a great degree to the anodyne properties of the composition of his bougies. The plaster bougie we are in the habit of using, is impregnated with the anodyne virtues of the henbane, belladonna and cicuta, and the relief the patients have experienced from them, has been so very considerable, as to leave no doubt in our minds, that they are decidedly preferable, either to the common plaster or any other bougie. In applying a bougie, we have two objects in view, viz. to allay irritation or spasm, and to compress the contracted part, and both these are accomplished by the compound plaster bougie, of which the following is a representation.

Fig. 3. The Compound Plaster Bougie.

a to *b*. The cylindrical part to be introduced to the stricture, for receiving the impression on the end, or through the strictural orifice to compress it.

b to *c*. The handle, which is slightly conical.

The bougies in common use are of two forms, viz. conical and cylindrical. The former has generally a sharp point, and the latter an hemispherical end. The orifice of the urethra being much smaller than any part of the canal, a great objection to the conical shape is, that when the stricture is seated near the neck of the bladder, or even in the posterior sphincter of the bulb or receptacle of the prostate and seminal secretions, it cannot be introduced far enough to produce any beneficial effects without producing a painful distention of the orifice. The end being sharp pointed, it is also apt to become entangled in the folds or lacunæ of the urethra. This shape has therefore been abandoned, by experienced surgeons, for the cylindrical one. The end of the cylindrical bougie being hemispherical, is not so likely to become entangled in the urethra; but by keeping the orifice and the whole urethra anterior to the stricture distended, it generally produces a degree of irritation that will not allow of its being retained a sufficient length of time, to produce a proper degree of compression or distention of the strictured part. To obviate this objection, about half an inch of the compound plaster bougie is made cylindrical, and the other part of one half the size, so that no irritation is excited by it in the anterior part of the urethra, nor is the orifice distended by it*. This shaped bougie (See fig. 3. fol. lxxii) is introduced with much greater facility than any other, and is generally retained much longer than either the cylindrical or conical form, without producing irritation or pain. Very nervous subjects, with very irritable urethrae, have been able to continue this bougie an hour, who could not retain any other shape, of smaller diameter, even a minute. In the inside there is a wire, which also prevents its bending† on meeting with an obstruction. To the end (*c*) of this

* A very remarkable degree of sympathy exists between this extremity of the penis, the prostate gland, and membranous portion of the urethra. Irritation in the latter parts is often attended with a distressing pain about the orifice of the urethra, and by the irritation occasioned by distending the orifice of the urethra, spasmodic contraction of the portion of the urethra, near the neck of the bladder, or passing through the prostate gland, is produced. It is therefore of great importance to avoid irritating the orifice, when it is necessary to pass a bougie to the neck of the bladder, or into the bladder.

† The bending of a bougie in the urethra often gives the person who introduces it, the idea of its passing a stricture; and we have known a bent bougie exhibited to a patient as a proof of the existence of a stricture, and of its circuitous direction!!

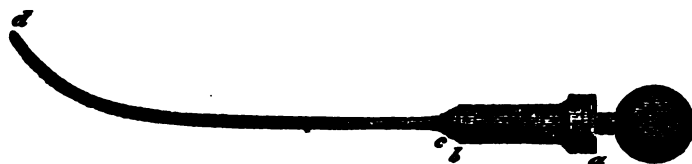
bougie a piece of tape or string should be fastened, as it is more likely to get into the bladder, during sleep, than the common bougie.

Of the compound bougie there are different sizes. When a bougie is introduced to ascertain if a stricture exists, the middle size is the best; for, if it meets with a stricture that will not admit of its passing, an impression will be made on the end, which will point out the size of the bougie that is applicable to the case. With the view of obtaining this cast, the bougie should be continued in the urethra till it becomes soft, when a little pressure against the strictured part should be used.

Some care is necessary in introducing a bougie. The person should take the end of the penis between the thumb and fore-finger of the left hand, just behind the glans (one on each side), and after drawing it gently forward, introduce the bougie with the other hand, the point being directed downwards, to avoid the folds. If it should meet with any impediment, he should employ a little more force, twirling the bougie between the fingers. If it should not advance, he should withdraw it a little, and give the point another direction. If this obstacle be not overcome, he may ascertain the nature of it, by examining externally the under part of the urethra, where the end rests, with the fore-finger of his left hand. In case of stricture, he will discover an hardness appearing to the touch to be in the spongy body surrounding the urethra. In such case, he should introduce the metallic syringe bougie, filled with the anodyne oil (noticed p. lxix), heated to about 90 degrees, and on arriving at the seat of the obstruction, he should force some of the oil into the urethra. The part being distended and lubricated, the pipe will probably pass; and if not, the nature of stricture may be ascertained, as noticed, p. lxxii. When a bougie arrives at the posterior sphincter of the bulb, the end should be raised by external pressure with the finger; and if it should afterwards meet with an obstruction, a right direction to the neck of the bladder should be given to it, by introducing the fore-finger, besmeared with oil, into the anus. When a bougie passes with difficulty, it will always be proper to inject the anodyne oil by means of the metallic syringe bougie for some days previously to its regular use.

The following is a representation of the metallic syringe bougie.

Fig. 4. The Metallic Syringe Bougie.



a to b. The syringe portion.

b. The screw which fastens it to the hollow metallic bougie.

c to d. The hollow metallic bougie.

The syringe, and the hollow bougie attached to it, should be filled with

the liquid to be injected. The hollow bougie is flexible, and previously to its introduction, it should be bent in the above form, to admit of its being introduced to the bladder, if necessary, or to examine the whole course of the canal. On meeting with an obstruction, a little of the contents should be forced out, which, by distending the parts, in general removes the obstacle, in case it is not organic stricture. In cases of organic or spasmodic stricture, or where it is necessary to draw off the urine from the bladder, the syringe part may be removed, to admit the escape of the urine. This instrument we consider a great improvement on that recommended in the Appendix, p. xxxvi.

IMPOTENCY.—Of all the diseases to which the male sex is subject, no one is productive of more mental distress than impotency. Although the intercourse with the female sex is considered an operation of the body, the most healthy or robust subject cannot perform it without the full concurrence of the mind; indeed, on the mind, the power principally depends, for when it is properly excited, a debilitated emaciated subject is more competent to it than the robust and healthy, whose mind does not participate in it. Although the spring is in the mind, the operation is not under the influence of the will, and according to the state of the mind, so is the operation performed. Such a state of mind, probably, depends on an electrical or galvanic condition of the brain. To perform this act properly, the body should, however, be in health, and the mind should be perfectly confident of the powers of the body to accomplish it. It should be free from fear, apprehension, and anxiety. The faculty of reason has very little to do with the power, and when it does interfere, a state of mind is often produced which destroys that which is necessary for the performance of the act. Anxiety of mind, or excess of affection, often paralyzes this power. We have met with many remarkable instances of loss of virility from these causes. A gentleman of the age of thirty-seven, after marrying a young lady, to whom he had long been excessively attached, although in perfect health, found, to his great astonishment, that he was not able to consummate the marriage. This circumstance rendered him so miserable, that he had recourse to an excess of wine and spirituous liquors, and to the tincture of cantharides, as recommended by Dr. Robertson. This stimulating treatment evidently tended to increase his inability, in consequence of which he became very nervous and restless. On arriving in London, about ten days after his marriage, he applied to us for advice. He was then affected with a high degree of nervous fever, with a determination of blood to the head, producing symptoms of approaching inflammation of the brain. His mind was exceedingly agitated. We ordered him to lose blood to the extent of sixteen ounces, to take an active aperient medicine, and at bed-time, an anodyne draught of henbane and the saline mixture. We also desired him to avoid stimulants, and to divert his mind, as much as possible, from the object of his affection, and, particularly, to give up all idea of sexual intercourse. In the course of three days, he found himself in possession of the desired power, and since that time, he has had no symptom of impotence. We notice this case, to shew the influence of excessive affection and anxiety, in paralyzing the power, and of the impropriety of employing stimulants, so highly extolled by some practitioners and quacks, to in-

vigorate the body, when the nervous system is in a state of increased excitement.

Many causes of impotence have been noticed by the ancient and modern physicians, as *natural* defects in the organs of generation, accidents, and a variety of diseases, as scirrhus, or wasting of the testicles, disease in the seminal ducts and vesicles, the urethra, &c.

Of the cases we have met with, the most common causes were early and immoderate venery, and the juvenile practice of masturbation, a practice on which we have expatiated in the preface of our Appendix, and debility of the nerves of the lumbar portion of the spinal marrow, not unfrequently the consequence of disease of the spine.

The late Mr. John Hunter attributes impotence to two causes, viz. to the state of mind, and of the genital organs. The influence of mind in producing impotency we have noticed above. The state of the organs of generation arises from diminished or increased excitement of the nerves leading to the penis and the testicles. When the testicles are too excitable, the semen is conveyed into the urethra, and escapes from it before full erection takes place; and when the penis is relaxed, or debilitated, although the seminal secretion is not too rapid, a sufficient erection does not take place, to propel it into its proper receptacle. Another cause is excitability of the penis, and debility or torpidity of the testicles, in which case the patient is much troubled with priapism, without any secretion of semen.

From the remarks we have made on the influence of the mind, in rousing the powers of the system, it must be evident that it may very often happen that the state of the mind will be such, as not to bring into action the powers of the machine, and every failure increases the evil, by reacting on the mind. It must, also, be obvious, that this act must often be interrupted without any apparent cause, in which case it is generally attributed to a want of corporeal power. As a majority of cases do not arise from *real* inability, they are to be carefully distinguished from such as do, and the only way of doing it is to examine into the state of mind respecting the act.

In the treatment of impotency we must, in the first instance, attend to the state of the general health. If the brain and nervous system be in a state of excitement, which, in young subjects, is generally the case, we shall gain little advantage by attending to the stomach and bowels, and local treatment, till it be reduced. With this view, the loss of blood will be necessary, if the patient evidently suffers from determination of blood to the head. The cold shower bath, every or every other morning, will also be proper. If the bowels be costive, or not sufficiently unloaded every day, two tea-spoonsful or more of the chalybeate Epsom salt (noticed in the 68th Number of the Monthly Gazette of Health) may be taken every or every other day. Three table-spoonsful of the following mixture may also be taken two or three times a day.

Take of the Saturated Tincture of Buchu Leaves, one ounce and a half;

Sweet Spirit of Nitre, or Hoffman's Anodyne, three drachms;

Camphorated Julep, six ounces.

In case of the sleep being unrefreshing, or the nights restless, a pill of extract of the Buchu leaves (four grains) may be taken at bed-time, with thirty drops of sweet spirit of nitre in a glass of water.

If the parts of generation be relaxed, they may be washed every night and morning with the following lotion.—Boil an ounce of pomegranate shell (bruised) in a pint and a half of water till reduced to a pint; then strain off the liquor, and dissolve in it three drachms of alum.

The diet should be nutritious, but not stimulating.

The above treatment is applicable to the cases arising from excitability of the system and of the organs of generation. When the cause is general debility, which is evident, by general flaccidity of the muscular system, symptoms of indigestion, relaxation of the scrotum, want of erection, pale countenance, depression of mind, &c. tonic medicines, and even a stimulating diet will be necessary. Three of the following pills may be taken two or three times a day.

Take of Extract of Rhatany Root, two drachms;

Carbonate of Iron, one drachm;

Peruvian Balsam, half a drachm;

Ginger, powdered, half a drachm;

Mucilage of Gum Arabic, sufficient to form a mass.—

To be divided into fifty pills.

If the bowels should not be regularly relieved, two tea-spoonsful of the Epsom salt may be taken in a tumbler of lukewarm water occasionally before breakfast.

When the general health is evidently improved by these medicines, the shower bath may be employed two or three times a week, if it be followed by a glowing heat of the whole body, or what is termed reaction.

The electric or Galvanic fluid, applied to the lumbar region, is also a very powerful auxiliary to tonic medicines, by rousing the nerves leading to the testicles, &c. With this view, *sparks* of the former, or gentle shocks of the latter may be applied along the course of the spine to the sacrum in particular, and to the scrotum and penis.

The scrotum and penis may also be washed every night and morning with the following lotion:

Boil one ounce of pomegranate rind bruised, in a pint and a half of water, till reduced to a pint, then strain off the liquor, and add, when cold, two ounces of water of pure ammonia. When the spine is affected, or when there is pain in the lumbar region, a blister over the part affected will also be proper.

The diet should consist of nourishing articles, and three or four glasses of good Port wine may be taken during or after dinner.

The patient should consider that impotency is a disease only during a certain period of life, viz. from twenty to sixty. With debauchees or people who have taken great liberties with their constitutions, and with corpulent and studious subjects, the power sometimes nearly ceases, at the age of forty or fifty, in which case, if it is not roused by the tonic treatment recommended above, it is of no use to have recourse to more powerful stimulants, as French flies, which, if they should succeed, the effect will continue only a very short time, and assuredly, at a serious expense to the constitution. In some thin nervous subjects we have known

this power to have continued to the age of seventy-eight. We have lately met with two instances of gentlemen, at this advanced age, having children. In all cases of impotence it is of great consequence to divert the mind from women. In cases of nervous excitement, the disease has been cured in a short time by those who have had the resolution to do this. In such subjects the determination to this effect has succeeded in removing the cause.

So intimately is the mind connected with the genitals, that the mere apprehension of impotence is capable of producing it. In a nervous youth the imagination broods over fancied ills till he become hypochondriacal. In this state, instead of acquainting a friend or an able physician with his suppositions, he has recourse to the writings of quacks, whose only object is to inflame the minds of readers, to induce them to take their nostrums. To escape the dreadful maladies which he is told threaten him, he swallows with avidity the remedy. Each quack medicine is tried in succession, till tired nature gives way, and the disease, which existed only in imagination, gives way to consumption of the lungs, or in consequence of the stimulating effects of the nostrum (the basis of all being an ardent spirit) a degree of nervous excitement is kept up, which often produces insanity, and the unfortunate youth offers a melancholy spectacle of what degradation human nature can suffer. That many thousand young men fall a sacrifice annually to the false promises of quacks, will not admit of a doubt, and that many more are rendered idiotic or mad, by reading their most ridiculous works, and taking their stimulating medicines, is no less true. This diabolical traffic with human life, we have exposed in our 7th and 8th numbers of the *Monthly Gazette of Health*.

The diseases of different parts of the genital system, producing impotence, we have noticed in the Appendix, and in this addition to it, fol. lxx.

From the foregoing remarks, it will appear to our non-medical readers that, in cases of impotence, of young and elderly people, the employment of *powerful* remedies must be accompanied with great circumspection.

NOCTURNAL EMISSIONS.—In the preface of the Appendix, p. 9, we have noticed the causes of this unpleasant complaint. It is worthy of notice, as shewing the influence of the mind in bringing the testicles into action, that dreams will occasion the evacuation two or three times in the course of a night, even in subjects who labour under impotence. A discharge of mucus during walking or riding, has been noticed by Mr. Hunter and others, as instances of the excitability of the testicles; but those cases, we conceive, were the mucous affection of the seminal vesicles and ducts, which we have noticed in the present work, fol. lxi; for, in all cases we have met with, the mind had nothing to do with the discharge, nor was the emission attended with any particular sensation, similar to that attendant on nocturnal emission, or sexual intercourse.

The cause of nocturnal emissions is evidently a morbid degree of sympathy between the brain and genitals, too often the consequence of the inconsiderate practice of youth. To diminish the sympathy, and to remove the cause, as connected with the excitability of the testicles,

bladder, &c. we have found the saturated tincture of the Buchu leaves, taken in the dose of two teaspoonsful, twice a day, in a glass of water, and ten grains of the extract (in two pills at bed time) to succeed in every case in which we have prescribed it.

These remedies generally succeed in removing the cause of nocturnal emissions, and with the view of preventing a recurrence the pills should be continued some weeks.

The bowels should be kept regular by taking one or two tea-spoonsful of the Epsom salt. When nocturnal emissions are the consequences of attachment to a female, or of a natural lascivious turn of mind, matrimony is a certain remedy. See Hypochondriasis of Youth, fol. li of the Appendix.

BUCHU LEAVES.—These leaves have been from time immemorial held in great estimation by the natives of the Cape of Good Hope as a remedy for a great variety of diseases, particularly those of membranes, and as an external application, in the form of fomentations and cataplasms, for contused wounds and rheumatic pains. Of late years they have been much used in Holland, as a remedy for indigestion, rheumatism, gravel, morbid irritation of the bladder, prostate gland, urethra, &c. There are several species of it; but that termed "*Diosma crenata*" is most esteemed for its medicinal virtues. It affords, on distillation, an essential oil, resembling a mixture of oil of rue, juniper, and camphor. The extractive matter is slightly astringent and bitter. The natives of the Cape, and the Dutch, are partial to an infusion of the leaves in brandy, which they take for all chronic diseases, and even acute ones of the stomach, bladder, and kidneys. For colic and spasms of the stomach and intestines, they consider this preparation, which they term buchu brandy, a sovereign remedy. The virtues of the leaves are imparted to boiling water by infusion, and also to proof spirit. The saturated tincture, and the extract when carefully prepared, so as to retain their volatile parts, are the best preparation. The dose of the former is two teaspoonsful, and of the latter, ten grains.

To the present edition we have added a collection of cases of diseased bladder, urethra, &c. &c. to illustrate its specific beneficial effects in allaying morbid irritation, &c. of the genital system. We have latterly given the extract the preference, on account of its being free from alcohol, an article which, in very nervous subjects of full habits, may in some degree tend to counteract its peculiar soothing property. The saturated tincture of Buchu leaves, taken in the dose of two spoonsful three times a day, in a glass of barley water, is a very valuable remedy for that species of irritative gleet, which is apt to recur after an exertion of the body, abuse of vinous or spirituous liquors, &c.

In the 64th Number of the Gazette of Health, we have noticed a case of diseased bladder and prostate gland, of long standing, attended with most distressing symptoms, which had resisted all the remedies usually administered, but was effectually cured by this medicine. By allaying irritation in the stomach, kidneys, urinary bladder, prostate gland, urethra, and rectum, it is a valuable remedy for many diseases, particularly those of the genitals, which are aggravated by a disordered stomach or kidneys. In the last edition we recommended it in strong terms as a remedy for morbid irritation of the bladder, urethra, seminal

vesicles, excitability of testicles, and morbid sympathy between the brain and genitals, occasioning nocturnal emissions, impotency, &c. and from the results of numerous trials we have since given, we are confident it will be found to merit the high character we have given it.

CUBEBS.—Since we noticed the efficacy of these berries in cases of gonorrhœa, gleet, palsy of the bladder, fluor albus, and indigestion of elderly people, Mr. Jeffrey, a respectable surgeon, of London, has published twenty-six cases of gonorrhœa, in which he gave them a fair trial. Out of the first twenty-one cases, fourteen were cured, four relieved, and in three they failed. Of those in which the remedy appeared only to afford partial relief, he attributes the want of complete success to some irregularity or inattention to his directions as to diet, or carelessness in taking it. The instances of failure, he thinks, were in consequence of some peculiarity of constitution: “but from whatever cause,” says he, “they may have arisen, the proportion of failures has been far short of that which occurs under the most common plan of treatment.” The results of his trials have convinced him that the cubeb berries do act specifically on gonorrhœa, in most constitutions, especially when administered in the early and acute form of the disease. He has found them to moderate the inflammatory and most painful symptoms, and to suppress the quantity of discharge in a shorter time, and with more certainty, than any other remedy with which he is acquainted. He has not witnessed any of the bad effects from the use of the remedy, noticed by others, as irritation, strangury, swelled testicle, &c. The period in which it succeeded in effecting complete cures, in his practice, has varied from two days to a fortnight. In many instances he has found it to prove very beneficial, after other remedies had failed. With respect to the mode in which a *stimulating* remedy operates, in the cure of an *inflammatory* disease, Mr. Jeffrey does not hazard an opinion. He thinks, that “its agency resembles, in a great measure, that of the balsam of copaiva; but whether,” says he, “it is conveyed to the *seat* of the disease, *directly*, by means of the urine, or *indirectly*, through the general circulation, or in both ways, I will not take upon myself to decide.” The odour of the urine clearly proves that a volatile part of it passes off by the kidneys, and to it much of the efficacy may be attributed. It, no doubt, also acts beneficially, like many balsams of similar properties, on secreting surfaces, through the medium of the circulation, whilst the stimulating quality, by occasioning a determination of nervous fluid and blood to the stomach and intestines, produces a formidable diversion in favour of the inflammatory affection of the urethra. Mr. Jeffrey prescribed the powdered berries in the dose of a drachm to a drachm and a half, four times a day, in a glass of water. For those who objected to the powder he prescribed the saturated tincture of cubeb, which he found to succeed as well. Mr. J. concludes, “as far as I have hitherto been able to ascertain, there is no symptom attending gonorrhœa, which contra-indicates the use of cubeb. I have not scrupled to prescribe it, in all the stages, and under all the circumstances of the complaint, and as yet have had no reason to repent of so doing.” He advises those who have been cured by it, to “continue the remedy at least a week after the discharge has entirely ceased; but it may,” says he, “be given during that period, in diminished doses, or at longer intervals. By neg-

lecting to observe this precaution, several patients have subjected themselves to a relapse of the complaint. In others it has been succeeded by gleet." He recommends an abstemious diet and rest.

When gonorrhœa is attended with swelling of testicle, irritation, or inflammation about the neck of the bladder, or a feverish state of the system, so powerful a stimulant, in our opinion, is far from being proper. In subjects, whose nervous systems are preternaturally irritable, we have uniformly found the cubebs in powder, as well as the saturated tincture, to aggravate the acute symptoms of gonorrhœa.

In cases of gleet, some of which were of long standing, and of *incontinence of urine from palsy*, and debility of the sphincter muscles of the bladder, we have found the saturated tincture of cubebs, in the dose of three teaspoonsful, three or four times a day, in a mucilaginous vehicle, as infusion of linseed, decoction of marshmallow root, or elm bark, very beneficial, in some cases effecting a complete cure in a week or two, and in all, continuing to afford relief till it had nearly effected a cure, or so far reduced the complaint, that it ceased to disturb the constitution, and the patients, in consequence, recovered their former good state of health.

Since we published the first edition of this work, we have found the Buchu leaves more beneficial than the cubebs, in every disease for which the latter has been recommended.

During the use of either of these remedies, attention should be paid to the general health. If the bowels be constipated, from one to two teaspoonsful of the sulphurate of magnesia, or fourteen grains of rhubarb, may be taken every or every other day, so as to keep up a proper action in the intestines. If the patient has been long subject to indigestion, four grains of the blue pill every night, for a week or ten days, will be necessary; and if he suffers from an overloaded state of the blood-vessels of the head, to that degree, as to produce giddiness or drowsiness, which, in elderly people, are common attendants on those complaints, abstraction of blood from a vein will also be proper.

CASES

Of Spasmodic Stricture, Morbid Irritation and Ulceration of the Bladder, Nocturnal Emissions, &c.

CURED BY THE

BUCHU LEAVES.

WE have selected the following cases from several others which have fallen under our own observation, since the publication of the first edition of this work, to illustrate the superior powers of the Buchu leaves, in allaying morbid irritation and spasms of the bladder, urethra, and

testes, and in promoting a healthy secretion of urine. The experience of others, we are happy to find, confirms the reports of the practitioners of the Cape and of ourselves, and that it is the only medicine that has been discovered, capable of allaying morbid irritation of the genital system; and particularly of the membranous lining of the bladder, urethra, and seminal vessels; and at the same time of improving the general health.

CASE I.

Mr. F——, a merchant of London, had been subject to considerable irritation about the prostate gland, kidneys, rectum, and urethra, for ten years; which, after an excess of wine, was often exceedingly distressing, and attended with considerable discharge of mucus and diseased urine. He commenced taking the tincture of Buchu leaves, in an infusion of the leaves, on the 2d of November, 1821 (as directed in p. lxx). In three weeks he was free from any affection of the bladder, kidneys, or urethra; and at this time enjoys good health.

CASE II.

Mrs. C——, of London and Devonshire, had been subject to such a degree of morbid sensibility of the nerves of the bladder, that she was under the necessity of emptying it every half hour. For the last two years of her life, her sufferings had been very acute; and her complaint, for six years, had confined her to her house. After taking the tincture of Buchu leaves and infusion, as directed p. lxxi, one week, she was capable of retaining the urine two or three hours; and, by persisting in the use of the remedy three weeks longer, she entirely subdued the disease.

CASE III.

Mr. L. P—— had been subject to nocturnal emissions upwards of four years; which, for the two last years, were attended with great irritability, general emaciation, and despondency. The saturated tincture of Buchu leaves, taken as directed under the head of Nocturnal Emissions, page lxxviii, succeeded in restoring him to perfect health in the course of four weeks; and, in a letter dated the 26th of January, 1822, he states, that he has experienced no return of the disease, and has enjoyed a good state of health since he left off the remedy—a period of four months.

CASE IV.

Colonel G—— had been under the care of a celebrated surgeon one month, with an affection of the urethra and bladder, which was declared to be organic stricture. The plaster and metallic bougies had been frequently introduced, but the relief they produced being very trifling, the surgeon urged him to submit to the caustic bougie. The colonel, however, resolved to give the Buchu leaves a trial, which, in the course of three weeks, so effectually removed every symptom of the disease, that he has not had occasion to have recourse to a bougie since he discontinued the remedy.

CASE V.

A. C. S——, Esq., aged 76, had been subject to incontinence of urine seven years, which, for the last twelve months, became so distress-

ing as to render an urinary necessary. His system became feeble, the body much emaciated, and the quality of the urine very morbid. The tincture of Buchu, in the course of ten days, so effectually subdued the irritation of the bladder, that he was able to retain the urine six or eight hours. His general health greatly improved, and the urine lost all its morbid appearances; and at this time he enjoys a good state of health.

CASE VI.

W. L——, Esq., of Chelsea, had been affected with irritative gleet, with symptoms of disease of the prostate gland, six years. He had taken a variety of remedies, under the directions of several eminent surgeons; particularly the uva ursi, peach leaves, &c. &c., without any evident benefit. He commenced the use of the tincture of Buchu leaves, &c., in August, 1821; and, after taking it regularly three weeks, has had no symptom whatever of the disease.

CASE VII.

Mr. D. D——, aged 24, had been subject to frequent recurrence of nocturnal emissions, which, with the idea that they would produce an incurable impotency, rendered him exceedingly miserable; and so much reduced his general health (by the distress they occasioned in his mind) that his parents supposed he was consumptive. He began the use of the tincture of Buchu leaves in October, and before he had taken it a week, he found his health greatly improved—his appetite and his spirits returned—his sleep proved refreshing—and he escaped the nocturnal malady. He has since enjoyed sound health of body and mind; and, instead of being gloomy, or ashamed to enter society, he spends his time rationally and cheerfully.

CASE VIII.

W. D—— had been in the army several years. In the year 1802 he suffered much from gonorrhœa, and the imprudent use of an injection. The irritation continued many years, varying according to his mode of living. About 1816 he had symptoms of organic disease of the prostate gland, and of a calculus in the bladder. In 1819 he parted with a considerable quantity of mucus in his urine, frequently tinged with blood. The acute pain he always experienced after making water, induced his surgeons to suppose that the bladder, or prostate gland, was ulcerated. In December, 1820, his case was declared to be incurable. In August, 1821, he determined to give the tincture of Buchu leaves a trial, which, to his great surprise, acted like a charm in alleviating the pain about the bladder; and, after continuing the medicine six weeks, he was free from any affection of the bladder, and his health greatly improved.

CASE IX.

I. S——, of Liverpool, had been afflicted nine years with a most distressing degree of irritation of the bladder and rectum, attended with a mucous discharge from the former, and an irresistible inclination to go to stool, on making water. He had been examined by an eminent surgeon of Liverpool, who declared the prostate gland to be in a very enlarged and very diseased state. The right testis was also enlarged.

After taking the Buchu leaves and tincture a week, as directed p. lxx, he was nearly free from pain. The sympathy between the bladder and rectum entirely ceased in a fortnight, and the tumefaction of the prostate gland gradually diminished; and in the course of five weeks he enjoyed perfect health.

CASE X.

C. B ———, of a robust habit, aged sixty-five, had been subject to paroxysms of acute pain at the neck of the bladder, which had been attributed, by the different surgeons of London whom he had consulted, to the presence of stone in the bladder, diseased prostate gland, spasmodic stricture, and blind piles: on examining the bladder, no calculus was discovered. After taking the Buchu infusion and tincture, as directed p. lxx, three weeks, he was perfectly well.

CASE XI.

J. P ———, aged 25, very thin and tall—had been subject to nocturnal emissions six years, to the frequency of which he attributed his emaciated state. The opinion of a Physician, given three years before he consulted us, that his case was far advanced "*Tabes dorsalis*," had rendered him exceedingly miserable. He had, for some time, considered himself incurable; and he looked forward to the termination of his mental sufferings by death with great pleasure. The saturated tincture of Buchu leaves, in the dose of two teaspoonsful three times a day, very soon had the effect of checking the seminal emissions, and by improving his general health, convinced him that his complaint was more imaginary than real. He afterwards entered into the rational amusements of life, and is at this time in perfect health; and instead of being, as he represented himself, the "most miserable wretch in existence," he is one of the happiest; the false impressions which his medical attendants, and the reading of ridiculous works had produced on his mind, having been completely effaced.

CASE XII.

W. R ———, of Bristol, aged 49, had been subject to considerable irritation at the neck of the bladder, frequently extending to the rectum and kidneys, for twelve years. He had consulted several eminent practitioners, some of whom attributed his sufferings to diseased prostate gland, others to stricture of the urethra, and others to a stricture of the rectum. None, however, rendered him any service. He commenced taking the saturated tincture of the Buchu leaves, on the 20th of December, 1821, which afforded him almost immediate relief; and after persevering in its use one month, he was perfectly free from any affection of the bladder, and is, at this time, in the habit of riding on horseback many miles daily, without bringing on the slightest affection of the bladder.

CASE XIII.

W. S. T ———, of London, aged 32, of a spare leucophlegmatic habit, had been subject to nocturnal emissions, and irritation about the prostate gland, urethra, and testicles, about six years. His mind had been poisoned by the false and ridiculous doctrines of some advertising Doctors, and his constitution had been much reduced by the treatment

of some unprincipled pretenders. The idea that he should never be in a condition to marry a female, to whom he was attached, rendered him very miserable. He commenced taking the extract of Buchu leaves, with the infusion (two pills of the former, five grains in each, and three table-spoonsful of the latter) twice a day, i. e. two hours before dinner, and the last thing at night; and after a perseverance of one month he found himself in perfect health, which he continues to enjoy.

CASE XIV.

I. W. S., aged 26, had suffered greatly from spasms in the region of the bladder, acute spasms at the neck of the bladder, occasional retention of urine, considerable irritation about the rectum, and such a sympathy between the bladder and rectum, that an attempt to evacuate either brought the other into action. His sufferings had been attributed by one surgeon to stricture of the urethra, and by another to stricture in the rectum. Bougies had been applied to both passages, but they failed to afford relief. He commenced taking the infusion and extract of Buchu leaves on the 2d of May, 1842. After taking two doses he was sensible of considerable mitigation of the most distressing symptoms, and after persevering in their use a fortnight, he was perfectly free from any affection of the parts, and at this time, June 12th, enjoys perfect health.

N. B. The infusion of the Buchu leaves may be administered with such other remedies as the state of the stomach, or general health, may indicate; i. e. in case acidity should prevail in the stomach, the carbonate of soda, or magnesia, may be added; and, in case of constipation of the bowels, the sulphate of magnesia. In cases of debility of stomach, or indigestion, without acidity, or costiveness, no addition will be necessary—the Buchu leaves being an excellent stomachic. When structural disease exists, the blue pill will also be necessary.

The Buchu Leaves, and the Tincture of them, may be obtained at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.

FINIS.

DISEASES OF THE RECTUM.—Since the publication of the foregoing pages, the Buchu leaves have been found highly beneficial in spasmodic and organic stricture, and ulcerations of the rectum, internal piles, and mucous discharges from the lower intestines.

CASE XV.

Organic Stricture of the Rectum.

Mr. W. S. sen. of a thin habit, aged 64, had been subject for many years to a most harassing irritation about the lower part of the rectum, attended with prolapsus on voiding hard fæces, and considerable irritation after the operation of an aperient medicine. About six years ago the difficulty of passing fæces having increased, he applied to a surgeon of eminence, who, after examination, attributed his sufferings to organic stricture, and partial ulcerations. Receiving little benefit from his advice, he determined to give the Buchu leaves a trial, in consequence of a friend having derived most essential advantage from them in a case of stricture of the urethra. After taking two teaspoonfuls of the saturated tincture twice a day in a wineglassful of the decoction of the marsh-mallow root for the course of a week, the irritation about the bladder subsided, his appetite and general health improved, and the fæces passed with greater facility. In the course of another week the spasmodic constriction of the anus considerably abated, and the rectum was in so quiet a state as to admit of the introduction of a bougie. After persisting in the use of these remedies for one month longer, he was free from any affection of the rectum, and at this time enjoys perfect health. So free was the rectum from irritation after taking the tincture three weeks, that he rapidly advanced from the smallest to nearly the largest bougie.

CASE XVI.

The Rev. J. S. had been afflicted for eight years with a most distressing irritation in the rectum, often extending to the neck of the bladder, attended with discharge of bloody mucus, considerable bearing down after a motion, frequent nausea, considerable flatulence, &c. He had consulted several eminent physicians and surgeons, some of whom attributed his sufferings to ascarides, and others to preternatural length of the intestine. The surgeons who had examined the rectum did not discover any organic disease. There was always great rigidity about the anus. The account given in the Gazette of Health of the powers of the Buchu leaves, in allaying morbid irritation in the bladder, induced him to give the saturated tincture a trial. He commenced by taking two teaspoonfuls three times a day in a glass of the decoction of marshmallow root, which, in the course of three days, greatly improved his general health. His appetite was much improved, his stomach and intestines were considerably less distended with flatus, and the complaint of the rectum was evidently on the decline. After persevering in the use of the remedy a few days longer, he was comparatively easy, and in the course of another fortnight he was perfectly well.

CASE XVII.

Mrs. D., a married lady, aged 34, had been afflicted for three years with an obtuse pain in the rectum, attended with a constant inclination to go to stool, a distressing bearing down, great irritation about the bladder and uterus, frequent nausea, spasms in the thighs and legs, and general nervousness. Some of the medical men whom she consulted, attributed her sufferings to internal piles, others to gravel, and others a disease of the uterus. After taking ten grains of the extract of *Buchu* leaves (in two pills) with a wineglassful of the decoction of the *marsh-mallow* root, four days, the pain about the bladder and uterus ceased, and that about the rectum considerably abated. Her general health was also much improved; and after persisting in the use of the remedy a fortnight, she was perfectly free from disease.

CASE XVIII.

R. T., of a robust habit, aged 56, had suffered most severely, for many months, from acute pain in the rectum and bladder, attended with frequent inclination to go to stool, which was always accompanied with an involuntary discharge of urine. A surgeon of eminence in London pronounced his case to be enlargement of the prostate gland, and prescribed blue pill and sarsaparilla. Receiving no benefit from the treatment, he had recourse to the saturated tincture of the *Buchu* leaves in the dose of two teaspoonsful twice a day in a wineglassful of the decoction of the *marshmallow* roots. In the course of three days the irritation considerably abated, and his general health improved. A small foul ulcer having been discovered within the verge of the anus, and the internal hæmorrhoidal veins being much distended, the soft astringent bougie was introduced twice a day, which, in the course of a week, healed the ulcer, and diminished the size of the blood vessels. The irritation rapidly abated, and in the course of three weeks he was perfectly well.

Several cases of external and internal irritative piles, and ulceration of the rectum, in which the saturated tincture and extract of the *Buchu* leaves were successfully administered, we shall give in the 83d number of the *Monthly Gazette of Health*, which will be published on the first of November, with a description of a new instrument for inspecting the rectum and vagina, and also of a new soft bougie.

See Notice.
N^o 73, To Jan. 1st, 1822.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

THE MONTHLY
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OF LONDON,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AUTHOR OF THE "DICTIONARY OF
POPULAR MEDICINE," "MEDICAL GUIDE," "CHEMICAL GUIDE," CORRESPONDING
MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE OF PARIS, &c. &c. &c.

*Aided by several eminent Physicians in America, the East Indies, and on the Continent of
Europe.*

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To "*Carolus Johannes*" the Editors recommend the following medicines:—

Take of Infusion of Roses (the London Pharm.), seven ounces;

Sulphate of Magnesia, four drachms;

Compound Tincture of Cardamoms, six ditto.—Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken two or three times a day. He may also take at bed-time, for the course of a fortnight, four grains of the blue pill every other night:—

Take of Borax, one drachm;

Distilled Water, six drachms;

Egyptian Honey, four drachms.—Mix.

To be applied to the ulcerated parts every night and morning, by means of a camel-hair pencil.—(Indigestion, attended with ulcerations of the tongue.)

"Mrs. C. J." the Editors advise to take ten grains of the ecphractic pill, in two pills, twice a day, with a glass of water. She should live abstemiously, keep her feet warm, and lose blood, if the giddiness should increase.

"Alpha" is informed, that by the term *saturated* tincture of buchu leaves is meant, a tincture containing as much of the virtues of the leaves as the menstruum is capable of holding in solution.

The case of "A. B." is evidently scrofula. The only remedy entitled to a trial is the tincture of iodine.

To "James C." the Editors recommend the following mixture:—

Take of Camphorated Julep, six ounces;

Sweet Spirit of vitriol, three ditto;

Tincture of Henbane, three ditto;

of Gentian, four ditto.—Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day.—(Indigestion, attended with hiccup).

The letters of "Eliza J." and "Jane W." are arranged for our next number. They were omitted in the present number to make room for the Title Page, &c. of the last volume.

The Editors beg to inform "G. I." that they know of no other method of radically curing rupture, than that which they have suggested in a former number. It has never been performed. Trusses, with strong springs, have produced such adhesion of cellular substance over the abdominal ring, as to prevent the descent of any part of the contents of the abdomen. Mr. Egg boasts of his truss having the power of "radically curing the disease," which it can effect only by producing adhesion.

"An Old Subscriber" is advised to give his daughter a wine-glassful of the following mixture, every morning, or twice a day, if it should not operate sufficiently on the bowels:—

Take of Sulphate of Magnesia, one ounce;

Pure Water, a pint and a half;

Simple Peppermint Water, half a pint;

Dilute Sulphuric Acid, thirty drops.—Mix.

She should rinse her mouth out three times a day, with an astringent lotion; as Port wine and water, in equal proportions.

A "Medical Subscriber" may save himself the trouble of writing to the Editors in future. His two last letters they committed to

TO CORRESPONDENTS—continued.

the flames, without reading them. His friend, Doctor James Johnson, and his quarterly exhibition of fine-sounding words, are too contemptible for their notice. In their next number they intend to notice the new edition of his book on Tropical Climates, and to introduce the supplicating letter the Editors received from Doctor James Johnson, when he became a candidate for a licence. The doctor's dastardly anonymous attacks, and false assertions, will fully justify the resolution of the Editors to publish a letter, although confidential. From what article, the Editors have the vanity to suppose their friend—"Medical Practitioner," alias, Doctor James Johnson, will derive much instruction and amusement.

"A. B." of Deal, "G. T. W." of Wellington, "William G. B." of Bridgenorth, "James S." of Cork, "L. P." of Liverpool, "G. D." of Worcester, will receive replies to their letters by post, on or about the 3d of January.

Dr. Uwins having resigned the Editorship of the Medical Repository, the Editors intend to give a biographical sketch of that gentleman, in their next number.

An author of a Treatise on Indigestion, having complained to his publishers that the Editors permitted a certain Physician of London to abuse his work in this Journal, the Editors beg to state that the person whose name appears on the cover of the Journal is the only one who writes for it.

The General Alphabetical Index to the Second Series, viz. the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Volumes, will be given in the next number. In consequence of an accident it could not be printed in time to be added to the present number.

292, STRAND.

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"W. H." of Wapping, is recommended to try the following plan: Take five grains of the Blue Pill, every night at going to bed, and two drachms of Epsom Salts, in a little Mint Water, in the morning; with twenty drops of Tincture of Fox-glove, in water, three times in every twenty-four hours. If his complaint be really an organic affection of the heart, it requires more than a written consultation, and we would advise him to call upon us.

"A Suffolk Subscriber" is advised to take the following:—

Take of Bruised Cloves, one drachm;
Boiling Water, half a pint;

Let it stand two hours in a covered vessel, and strain; add of Solution of Ammonia, two drachms; and take three table-spoonsful three times a day. Costiveness should be obviated by such a preparation as the Bengal Pills, or some other warm purgative.

The Editors are sorry they have not time to reply to the queries of their other correspondents. Answers to those, with whose Addresses they are not acquainted, will be left at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Letitia B.'s" complaint appears to be disease of the stomach, and of the bowels in particular; she is recommended to try the following plan, and to inform the Editor of the result:

Take of Infusion of Rhatany, 6 ounces;
Prepared Natron, 2 drachms;
Aromatic Tincture of Rhatany, half an ounce;

Mix: and take three table-spoonsful three or four times a day; the bowels to be kept open by taking 25 grains of rhubarb with five of ginger, every third morning.

The Editor suspects the existence of a stricture in the case of "Juvenis M."; he advises him, therefore, to have this ascertained, and in his next communication state his case more fully.

"E. H." is recommended to take the opinion of Mr. J. T. Edmonds, Dentist, 1, St. James's Street.

Our *classical* Correspondent, "S. R." does not state his case with precision enough to enable us to advise him; in fact, we were at first inclined to believe he was in jest. The roughness (*asperitas*) is obscurely expressed; he does not state the cause. We shall be happy to give him our advice, if he conceives it worth the trouble of an explanation.

"W. C. W." will find the information he requires at page 460, Vol. II:—572, of the same;—and at 1114, Vol. III.

The Editor will, if possible, oblige a "Junior Practitioner," by giving an analysis of *Dr. Robbert's Pills and Ointment* in the next number.

The request of "J. N." of Southwark, will meet with early attention.

The Editor does not agree with "Anti-egotism," that the "*Verbo-Medicine*" of *Dr. James Johnson* is unworthy of his notice. The objects of our work are to expose quackery and ignorance in whatever quarter we may detect them; and to enable our non-medical readers to distinguish theory, founded on hypotheses, from that founded on facts, and the jargon of sophistry, which consists in sonorous words, from scientific criticism, which is the result of experience and observation. The *ravings* of the *learned Doctor Johnson*, (in his own opinion *most learned*,) it is true, are unworthy
of

CORRESPONDENTS—continued

of notice. In the profession he has found his level; and if a *respectable* member subscribes to his nonsense, Anti-egotism may rest assured, he has been induced to lend his name from feelings of compassion, or the urgent importunity of some non-medical friend of the *sapient* Doctor, of which every Quack can boast. The *Doctor's liberality of sentiment*, and his *verbose style* of writing, prove, at any rate, that in medicine "a little learning is a dangerous thing." The Editor, in consequence of having visited a patient in France, has not had it in his power to notice, in the present number, the ravings and flights of fancy of the *courageous* Dr. James Johnson in the present number; the *learned* production of Mr. Grey, late editor of the Medical Repository; Mr. Cockle's Pills, and the *learned* Dr. Solomon's Anti-impetigines.

The Editor will attend to the suggestions of Dr. P. The *gentlemanly* language of the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal, has not escaped the notice of the medical profession. The attention paid to *some* foreign physicians, on settling in this metropolis, has long excited feelings of indignation in the minds of *liberal* practitioners of this country; but when a man, who has been a hair-dresser, and after *studying* medicine a year, commences the *fee* trade, or what is now termed the *sovereign* remedy trade, presumes to *insult* the members of the profession of this country, the most ignorant of which is very superior to himself in practical, theoretical, or general classical knowledge, it behoves every English member to discountenance the work of such an impudent scribbler, although he may boast of royal or Hamiltonian patronage. Dr. PUFF will find the *practitioners* of this country are not so easily frightened by his impudence, or misled by his verbeage, as those of Italy. The *Italian* practice is not yet established in this country.

The *successful* treatment of cases of deafness in nearly all the members of the alphabet, by "Squire Curtis," with *practical* remarks on his book of advertisements and treatment, and *his* list of the members of the College of Surgeons, are arranged for the next number.

The Editor returns his thanks to Dr. Muller, of Vienna; Dr. Mequel, Editor of the Gazette de Santé; and Dr. Giraudy, of Paris; Mr. Jones, Dr. Aston, and Dr. F. for their communications.

"W. P.," "J. S." and "A. W." will receive answers to their queries by post.

ERRATA:

No. 73.—The prescription for "James C." in the Notices to Correspondents, contains a mistake of the Printer, in which the three last articles are stated in *ounces* instead of *drachms*.

No. 74.—Page 45, line 9, for *nigrus* read *ingens*.

48, — 7 from the bottom, for *opposes* read *approves*.

50, — 33, for, on *the* state, read, in *this* state.

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Rev Mr Walker

N^o 76, To April 1st, 1822.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The receipt communicated by "Bristoliensis" has already appeared in our work (the first volume), under the head of Lady Webster's Pills. The Editors feel obliged by his letter.

"C. D." of Liverpool, and "A Non-Medical Reader," will find the information they solicit in the present number.

The Editors advise "G. L." to take two tea-spoonsful of the oxymel of the colchicum seeds, three times a day, in about a wine-glassful of the decoction of the Iceland moss, and to apply a blister over the breast-bone. His diet is certainly very improper. Instead of a supper of toasted cheese and ale, they advise him to take gruel and cocoa, or chocolate for breakfast, and a little meat (*underdone*), with some bread pudding for dinner. His surgeon should have attempted to cure the affection of the lungs before he attacked the extremities. His case is pulmonary consumption.

The Queries of "H. C.—r" the Editors will answer by post.

The Editors have not seen the book to which "J. S. P." alludes. They will notice it in their next number. The pills he is in the habit of taking they consider perfectly safe: they, however, advise him to take, every day (about two hours before dinner), two tea-spoonsful of the following stomachic drops:—

Take of Tincture of Lupulin,

Tincture of Ginger, of each half an ounce;

Solution of Subcarbonate of Potass, 2 drachms.--Mix.

They have not forgotten their promise respecting "Dress."

"A. Z." is advised to take twenty drops of the tincture of iodine, twice a day, in a wine-glassful of the decoction of marshmallow-root, and to apply to the parts affected every night the *citrine ointment*.

The Editors hope a "Junior Practitioner" will approve of the article in the present number, on a certain nostrum.

"A. M." and "L. D." are informed that the Editors have given up their intention of publishing a general index, in consequence of the table of contents to each volume being very copious. If they have not noticed Marshall's cerate, they will do it in their next number, to oblige "A. M."

CORRESPONDENTS—*continued*

The correspondents who solicit advice on a certain nocturnal complaint, are referred to the *Addition* to the Appendix, price 2s.; a new edition of which will be published in the course of a few days, with cases, to illustrate the beneficial effects of the buchu leaves, in allaying morbid irritation of the bladder, spasmodic stricture, incontinence of urine, &c. &c.

"Genio," "Chemicus," "Dominus P." and the love-sick "Gray," are not forgotten.

"S. W." of Bristol, "R. G." of Tewkesbury, and "F. S." are advised to take the alkaline wine of the colchicum seeds.

Wood's Laxative Pills have been analyzed for the next number.

Dr. Badeley's *scientific* evidence on a late trial, and Dr. Pearson's *chemical* defence of it, will be noticed in our next number.

The Editors return their thanks to "Anti-egotism" for his hints and information. They did not receive a copy of the learned Doctor Johnson's compilation on the diseases of tropical climates, till it was too late to notice it in the present number. All the matter Anti-egotism has sent, with other respecting this medical luminary, they intend to include in one article. If Anti-egotism should determine on publishing his periodical work (the Chiro-Medical Luminary, or Quarterly Journal of Medical Humbugism), they will return his packet of papers.

The Editors consider it their duty to state, that, in their Notice to Correspondents, respecting Dr. Puff, on the cover of the last Number, they did not allude to any practitioner of London; and that for the professional abilities of a respectable physician, to whom some have supposed this article referred, they entertain a great respect.

An account of several curious phenomena is intended for the next Number; viz. remarkable precocity of manhood in a child aged three years and a half—a foetus born with a heart, in which the arteries continued to beat after birth.—A five-month's child, very healthy; a child with a small head, resembling that of a toad;—and an ass, in Spring Gardens, capable of driving two horses in a curricule.

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**THE MONTHLY
Gazette of Health,**

OR

**Popular Medical, Dietetic,
PHILOSOPHICAL AND ANTI-EMPIRICAL
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Amicus" will find a Letter in the present Number on the accurate chemical knowledge of a Licentiate of the College of Physicians, on a late trial!! In their next numbers, the Editors intend to insert the particulars, with observations on the ridiculous defence of his late teacher, and on the importance of a knowledge of chemistry to the physician.

The Editors refer "B. P. W." to the third and sixty-seventh Numbers of this Work for the information he solicits.

The Editors hope the Article in the present Number, under the head of *Depilatory*, will prove a satisfactory reply to the queries of "W. S. and M. B."

To a "New Correspondent," the Editors return their cordial thanks; they hope to be favoured with a continuance of his support.

The three long Letters of Mr. Harvey and his Son, of Bath, shall meet with early attention. The respectability of the circle of their acquaintance in Bath, and of Mr. Harvey, the attorney, the Editors never doubted. They see no reason why a person should not be respectable, although he is an attorney.—Attorneys, like medical men, no doubt, consider it to be their duty to do their best for their employers. A bad case in law as well as in medicine, requires greater exertion of intellect and attention than a common one; and why is not the relation of the case of a client as much entitled to credit as that of a disease by a patient? It has been said, that the profession of the law, as well as of medicine, does not admit of medium characters; that members are necessarily either honest men or rogues:—but which is the biggest rogue, the one who tampers with the life of a patient, for the mere sake of lucre, or the man who takes liberty with the purse only? This question, Mr. Harvey, or his Son, will perhaps do us the favour to answer. The subject is one in which the Son may give more convincing evidence of precocious intellect, than he has in his grammatical letter. "As the twig is bent, the tree's inclined," is an old and very just saying. The name of Cullen is highly respectable in medicine. That professor was not only a cautious collector of facts, but an honest reporter of them. We have an *equity* barrister of the same name; who, a Correspondent informed us, is about to publish a dissertation on the dictates of conscience, and on that independence of mind, which the conviction of a future state and a day of judgment can only inspire. His chamber-scene of a dying lawyer will, no doubt, be very affecting. The Editors advise Mr. Harvey to follow the example of this conscientious man, and take up the cudgel in defence of the worthy members of the medical profession. The Editors assure Mr. H. they can make allowance for the frailty of poor humanity; the injured in this world will be rewarded by his final Judge, who knows the secrets of his heart, and who is not to be misled by sophistry, or influenced by lucre or Lucifer. In our next Number we intend to indulge Mr. Harvey with some observations

TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

on this subject, in an article on the Lord Chancellor's lucubration on Mr. Laurence's work and Dr. Haslam's work on the *integrity* of the human mind.

The hand-writing and the *learned* remarks of "An Amateur Chemist," leave no doubt of the writer being an *old woman*; and we suspect the wife of the quack of Bath, whom *she labours* to defend. If, however, these suspicions be not correct, and the writer is really of the masculine gender, the Editors beg leave to decline the *honor* of his acquaintance, although he is a Subscriber to a library at Bath, keeps a carriage, and has a seat in the North. If he were a *gentleman*, he would have paid the *postage* of his letter, and not have used an envelope for the purpose of putting the Editors to the expense of double postage.

"Medicus's" discovery of the beneficial effects of the "Copper Smoke" on the inhabitants of Swansea, the Editors intend to notice in their next Number. —If not to *all* the inhabitants, it is no doubt very beneficial to Medicus and his fraternity.

"A Junior Practitioner" states, that Mr. Young, of Bath, whose name we introduced in our last Number, is a respectable chemist; and that his name was introduced in the list of vendors of Mr. Harvey's nostrums, in consequence of having taken to the drug business of that gentleman. That this is a fact, the Editors have ascertained from different quarters.

The Editors will comply with the request of "D." in their next Number, respecting the habit of smoking, in case they have not already noticed it.

To "M. R. D." the Editors return their thanks. They have postponed noticing the extraordinary cases of cures published by Mrs. Preston, on account of her having introduced the names of people from whom they can obtain the necessary information. They agree with W. B. that the Colleges of Surgeons and Physicians are bound by their charters, either to prohibit her from the practice of surgery and medicine, or admit her a member of their bodies. Although she is an "Old Woman," she would not be the first which has honoured the list of members of one of them.

The idea of an "Original Subscriber" of a "saturated tincture," is not correct; for if a tincture be properly filtered, it will not be turbid, or thick. The proportion of cubeb pepper, or rectified spirit, is three ounces (bruised) to a pint.

"A Constant Reader" may rest assured that, when a man professes, in this country, to cure cancer, scrofula, &c., by *herbs*, procured from a distant part of the world, he is an impostor. This class of unprincipled adventurers and of Water Doctors have of late years greatly increased in this metropolis, to the great disgrace of the police. The active Sir R. Birnie is about to pay his respects to them, and by directing their attention to the cases of "suspended animation," which are so frequently exhibited at the Old Bailey, to check depravity, he will probably bring them to a sense of the enormity of their crimes.

The complaint of "T. A. S." is the consequence of relaxation and elongation, the latter of which is by no means uncommon. A lavement of a decoction of oak bark, or pomegranate rind, in general, affords relief; but, on discontinuing the remedy, the complaint is very apt to return. The removal of the prolapsed part by ligature, is become a common operation; and in the practice of Mr. Lynd, Surgeon of the Westminster Infirmary, the Editors have known it to succeed in a great variety of very bad cases.

The Editors advise "W. W." to continue the blue pills, and to take a teaspoonful of the tincture of chamomile and ginger, twice a day, in a wine-glassful of the decoction of marsh-mallow root, i. e. about two hours before and three after dinner. They refer him to the articles, "Indigestion and Nervous Com-

TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

plaints," in the Medical Guide, for instructions as to regimen, &c., by attending to which he may prevent organic disease of the stomach, to which he appears to be predisposed. He should have noticed his age, and the effect of wine or spirits on the complaint of the head and stomach.

"W. A." may expect to find all his queries respecting different baths, answered in the next number. The sudatory is doubtless a valuable contrivance to excite perspiration. The vapour bath is also a remedy for many affections, where it is necessary to produce a moist surface and to promote the circulation of blood in the skin. Instead of the body being exposed to the cold atmosphere, after the use of the sudatory, a warm sheet coming immediately in contact with the skin, on withdrawing the machine, is a circumstance of great importance in the treatment of many diseases. The exposure of the body on being taken out of a warm bath, has been productive of much serious mischief.

The queries of "A. B." "C. L." "L. B." "A. C. L." "W. T." the Editors will answer by post agreeably to their directions. f

The Balsam which "G. M." wishes to obtain, is not to be procured in England. The Barbadoes tar, flavoured with the oil of aniseeds, is generally sold for it. The receipt for making the powers of amber he may obtain at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.

The Editors advise "Robert J." to take a small wine-glassful of the decoction of burnt hartshorn, with two tea-spoonsful of the compound tincture of rhatsany, three times a day; and a pill, composed of half a grain of Ipecacuan powder and three grains of the extract of the white poppy, every night. He should live much on arrow root, rice, tapioca, and other vegetable jellies. The use of flannel next the skin will also be proper. They advise him to remove to a warmer climate.

If "Jacobus" should require the information he solicits before the publication of the next Number, he may obtain it at 170, Piccadilly.

TO THE SUBSCRIBERS.

The Editors beg leave to acquaint their Subscribers, that a popular Memoir, on Suspended Animation, by Dr. De Sanctis, will be published as a Supplement to the next Number of this Work; and as the pages will be continued, so as to form a part of the present Volume, it will be necessary for Subscribers to desire their booksellers to procure it with the next Number, in order that the Volume may be complete. The Doctor will add a description of a much improved instrument for scarifying the gums of children, and of one for applying a ligature to the polypus, or other excrescences of the uterus, vagina, and rectum. An explanatory Plate of those Instruments, and of the Apparatus for recovering cases of suspended animation, will also be given.—The price will not exceed one shilling.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To a "Constant Reader" at Selby, the Editors recommend the Chiro-Medical Pharmacopœia, noticed in the present Number. The Editors hope to have it in their power, in a few months, to announce a popular system of Anatomy, on a new plan. He may expect to hear from the Editors in the course of a week, on the Eye case, &c.

A "Subscriber at Wisbech" is advised to give his patient the basille powder every week, and three table-spoonful of the decoction of Iceland moss, or infusion of horehound, with twenty drops of the alkaline tincture of iron, twice a day.

"A. C. R. of Dublin," is advised to take twenty drops of the tincture of iodine twice a day, in a wine-glass of the decoction of Iceland moss, and to keep the bowels in a regular state by taking occasionally one or two tea-spoonful of the true Sedlitz salt. His case is clearly scrofula.

The Editors will reply to the queries of "Medicus," in a few days. They are sorry his letter should have remained so long unanswered.

The publication of an additional Number of the *Gazette of Health*, on "Suspended Animation," has been delayed for a few weeks, in consequence of its being found necessary to give engravings of the apparatus.

The Editors have pleasure in announcing a publication, on "Sulphureous Fumigation," by Surgeon Decker and his Establishment of Sulphureous Fumigating Baths, 8, Mark Lane, near Hanover Square; under such skilful superintendence, they will, no doubt, prove useful.

"W. P.," "S. R. S." and "G. P." are referred to the Cases of Diseases of the Bladder, Urethra, &c. by the Buchan Lectures, a new edition of which the Editors have just published.

The Expenditure of the Brentford Dispensary, contrasted with that of another Dispensary in the County, with the proportions of Deaths, Cures, &c., is intended for the next Number.

The Queries of "R. M.," "W. B.," and "M. L." the Editors will answer by Post.

An "Old Subscriber" may obtain the information respecting Chairs for exercising the Body, at Mr. Weeks' Museum, nearly opposite the Haymarket.

The Editors request those correspondents, whose letters they may, in the hurry of business, neglect to notice, will not hesitate to reapply to them.

The Poetical Lines on a certain quack are inadmissible.

MR. PAYNE,
PNEUMATIC CHEMIST,

Most respectfully begs leave to state, that he has Removed from
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors will comply with the requests of "J. H. G." "a Subscriber," "R. K." "F. L." "W. R." and "Justitia," in their next number.

The Editors advise "T. C." of Addingham, to keep up a discharge from the nape of the neck, by means of a seton, to employ the shower-bath every morning, and to obviate costiveness, by a solution of the Epsom salt in chamomile tea.

The Editors will reply to the Letters of "A. B." of Taunton, "S. B." of Chepstow, "L. R." of Liverpool, "W. S." of York, and "F. L." of Dublin, by post.

The Editors recommend "S. R." to read their *addition* to the Appendix lately published by Sherwood and Co. A weak solution of the sub-carbonate of soda will not injure the hair. The eruption is not produced by a worm, as he supposes; the vermiform substances being only the secretion of sebaceous glands. They advise him to apply the citrine ointment to the parts every night.

The conjecture of "A. C." is not correct. The Editors did not allude to any practitioner in London, in the article which appeared in the last number, on the Pharmaceutical Guide.

Fisher's Essence of Sarsaparilla, Scott's Bilious Pills, Phillips's Stomachic Pills, Pyrmont Tablets, and Paytherus's Seidlitz Powders, have been analysed for the next number, by the request of "Lady E." "W. P." and "F. L."

The Editors agree with "Justitia," that many lives have been destroyed by the practice of a West-end apothecary, of administering largedoses of calomel (twenty-four grains daily)!! in cases of typhus fever.

The Editors have just received a letter from an ingenious literary man, not unacquainted with the principles of medical science, though *not* a practitioner; wherein he informs them, that he has devised an expedient, simple and easy, but never tried, which has, apparently, strong tendency to eradicate one *pest* from society. Such he calls those ignorant impostors, those pretenders to science, those quacks, whose disgusting printed bills are forced upon us in all directions of this large metropolis. He says, that the faculty are obligated, by the twofold impulse of *sympathy* and *self-interest*, to *concur in his plan*, and thus to rescue misery and credulity from ignorance and knavery. He has said, that if in the month of July, he do not make a small separate pamphlet on the subject, he will give preference to the Gazette of Health, and send his plan in time for appearing in the Number for August; but, if he *do* print, he will forward a copy, from which may be extracted as much as is agreeable to the Editor.

He pays this compliment to us as being avowedly anti-empirical on our title page.

We have copied thus much at his request, and this is all that we at present know of *the expedient to extirpate quackery*. Be what it may, we wish it success, as far as it justly deserves such wish.

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Rev Mr Walker

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THE MONTHLY
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The case of "W. S. F." is evidently scrofula. The Editors advise her to take twenty drops of the tincture of Iodine twice a day, in a wine glassfull of the decoction of Iceland moss, and to substitute the composition of rose leaves, noticed in the 77th No. for tea. To hasten the separation of the diseased part of the bone, she may apply to it, by means of lint or a syringe, the impure pyro-ligneous acid.

R. P. of Cheltenham, and J. M. near Chepstow, will find the information they solicit in the "*Addition to the Appendix*," which the Editors have lately published.—If they should require any further information, the Editors will be happy to hear from them.—The habit of the former being clearly scrofulous, they advise him to take the tincture of Iodine in the dose of twenty drops, with the medicines recommended in the *Addition* for his malady.

To Miss C. of Exeter, the Editors return their thanks.—They have not yet had an opportunity of inspecting the apparatus—when they have, they will write to her.

R. M. will find, on referring to an early number, that the Editors have noticed Norris's Fever Drops,—being a preparation of antimony, they consider the nostrum capable of proving very injurious in typhus fever. Abstraction of blood, in an inflammatory affection of the liver, is certainly proper, but in the case he has briefly noticed, it does not appear to the Editor that the liver was affected. It is now the fashion to attribute all diseases to a morbid condition of the liver, and R. M. may rest assured, that if his medical attendant sees nothing but liver in the complaints of all patients, he is an ignoramus.

The Editors advise "an anxious Mother" to keep up a discharge from the nape of the neck or upper arm, by an issue, as the best means of keeping off the disease of the head.—She should also wash the head twice a day with cold water and vinegar, keep the feet dry and warm, and the bowels regular. In case of irritative fever, during dentition, she may administer a drop of laudanum two or three times a day, and if the head becomes hot, with increased action of the arteries about the head and neck, two or three leeches should be applied to the temples.—A mixture of the jellies of arrow root and hartshorn shavings (without an acid) is the best food.

To Correspondents—continued.

To the requests of "J. M." "M. R. D." a "Subscriber," and "J. K. G." the Editors will attend in their next number.

The Editors return their thanks to Clericus for his hint, to which they will attend in an early number. The impositions practised on the ignorant by the class of advertising quacks, to which he directs their attention, are so infamous, that the Editors have been collecting information respecting them.

The Letter signed "Vox et preterea nihil," to his dear brother Common Serjeant, on the evidence of Dr. Baillie on a certain melancholy occasion, shall appear in our next.

The Editors are sorry they did not receive copies of *Surgeon Rouse's Bills*, in time to appear in the present number.

The Plagiarisms of Dr. Thomas, of Salisbury, and an Analysis of his Books,—the Conversion of Dr. Bateman during his last illness,—Wood's, Scot's and Phillip's Pills,—Squire Curtis's Cases,—Puytherus's Specification,—Faithorne's Prescriptions,—The advertisement of Surgeon Harvey, of Bath, are intended for the next number.

The Letters of "Abel Drugger, junior," and "Galls," and the exposure of the practice of "Water-Doctors," are intended for insertion in the next Number.

Books and Communications forwarded to the Editors, 170, Piccadilly, will meet with early attention.

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N^o. 81, To September 1st, 1822.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors request "Jacobus" to answer the following questions:—

Are you of a plethoric habit?

Have you lost blood, or been in the habit of taking an aperient medicine for the complaint of the head? and if so, with what effect?

Is the complaint relieved by a meal?

Are the feet warm?

Are you giddy on stooping, or in an horizontal position?

If Jacobus will favour the Editors with his address, they will write to him on the day they receive his letter.

The Editors advise "R. V." of Cheltenham, to take the mixture noticed in the 75th page of the Addition to the Appendix, and make use of the shower-bath every other morning.

If "Ventriculus," of Scarborough, will gradually abandon the cordial bottle, and take two tea-spoonsful of the compound tincture of rhatany root three times a day, in a wine-glassful of lime-water, he may succeed in re-establishing his health.

"A Constant Reader," at Exeter, is advised to lose eight or ten ounces of blood, by cupping, and to take every night two of the following pills:—

Take of Blue Pill, ~~half~~ a drachm;

Extract of Henbane, two scruples.

Mix, and divide into twenty pills.

An aperient draught of Epsom salt and infusion of senna twice a week, a perpetual blister over the region of the liver, and a warm bath twice a week, will also be proper. The enlargement of the liver is evidently inflammatory. The Editors advise him to place himself under the care of an experienced physician acquainted with surgery, or an experienced surgeon.

"W. R. G." will, no doubt, receive great benefit from the tinctures of iodine and lupulin. His complaint is clearly scrofulous.

"S. S." and "R. F." are referred to page 72 of the Addition to the Appendix.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—(*continued.*)

“Mrs. T.” is advised to employ the levigated areca charcoal instead of her family tooth-powder. It will not only check the progress of caries, but prevent tooth-ache. For rendering the teeth firm in the socket, the simple tincture of rhatany-root is the most effectual remedy.

The Editors advise “C. W.” to substitute the basilic powder, in the dose of four grains, about once a week, for the senna and treacle, and to continue washing the head with vinegar and water. If he will bring the child to 170, Piccadilly, on a Monday, Wednesday, and a Friday, from 12 to 3 o’clock (the days on which they give advice gratuitously), they will examine her head.

The case of “A. R.” is hypochondriacism. The Bengal aperient pills, noticed in the last number, and the tincture of lupulin, in the dose of thirty drops, with the same quantity of spirit of sal volatile, in a glass of water, will probably succeed in restoring her to health.

The “Scientific Discussions” of the Worcester Medical Societies, the diplomas of the physicians, and the painted Dolly physician, will be noticed in our next number, with the following works:—Mr. Farmer’s new edition of a Treatise on Head-ache—Mr. Coyne, on the Nitro-Muriatic Acid Bath—Mr. Wallace, on Chlorine Vapour—and Mr. Thomas’s Ways of Preserving Health.

The Editors, will thank “J. M.” to favour them with a concise account of the plan for consuming smoke, to which he alludes in his letter of the 15th instant.

The Editors having mislaid the receipt for scrofula, a Subscriber was so kind as to send for insertion in this work, will be much obliged to him to favour them with another copy of it.

M. R. D., Abel Drugger, Dr. Clayton’s Practice, a Receipt for Ascarides, Mr. Rous’s Bills, Wood and Scot’s Pills, will meet with early attention.

A Subscriber requests some reader will favour him with an answer to the following question, through the medium of this work:—“What is the most effectual method of getting rid of the common house-fly?”

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors advise A. B. of Chester, to give the mixture recommended in the present Number, for Indigestion, under the head of Bitter Almond Emulsion, a trial, and to observe an abstemious diet.

"H. C. P." cannot employ a better dentifrice than the *levigated* charcoal of the areca nut. If it lodges in a caries or rough part of a tooth, it will prove beneficial, by checking disease. The use of salt and soap, as recommended by her Dentist, is *decidedly bad*. The Editors will comply with her request, respecting Hops and Brewers, in their next Number. The previous infusion of the hop is proper. The best hop for making beer for early use, is the Worcestershire.

An Enquirer, respecting the distilled water of the bitter almond, is advised to employ the emulsion of it, noticed in the present Number.

The Editors advise an "Old Subscriber," to make use of Isinglass, to render his Vinegar clear, or to filter it through paper.

"J. S. of Gloucester," will find the information he is so anxious to obtain, in the 26th page of the Appendix to the Gazette of Health.

The queries of "Samuel R.," "Dr. W. S.," "Anna B.," and "G. R.," the Editors will answer by post.

"W. F. of Bath," must favour the Editors with another statement of his case, and a copy of their prescription, before they can answer his letter.

"Mr. W.'s" communication, respecting a Quack Aurist and his puffing friend is highly valuable, on account of shewing the connexion between Authors and Reviewers. The Editors will have great pleasure in exposing this traffic, and also that of the Draught and Bolus Quack of Mile End.

"W. F." being an athletic subject, will, no doubt, derive great benefit from the use of the Wine of the Colchicum Seeds.

Dr. Jenner's Work on the Tartar Emetic Eruption, Mr. Stevenson's on Gutta Serena, a Practitioner's on Head-Ache, and Remarks on varicose Veins within the Rectum, will meet with early notice. The Editors request their Friends to address their Publications and Communications to the Editors, at 170, Piccadilly.

"Oxoniensis" is probably correct in his account of Sir Christopher Pegge. The Editors will introduce his statement in their next Number.

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N^o. 83, To November 1st, 1822.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

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EDITED BY

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors advise "A. C." of Dublin, to take two tea-spoonsful of the saturated tincture of Buchu leaves, with thirty drops of the liquor of pure potass twice a day, in a wine-glassful of the decoction of marshmallow roots.

"S. Y." of Sheffield, will probably receive much benefit from the following composition :

Take of Extract of Rhubarb, two scruples ;

—————of Buchu Leaves, one drachm ;

Dried Subcarbonate of Soda, two scruples ;

To be well mixed, and divided into thirty pills. Two or three to be taken twice a day.

The case of an "Old Subscriber" of Horselydown is evidently epilepsy ; and as he has symptoms of worms, the Editors advise him to give the spirit of turpentine a trial, as recommended for tape worm, in a former number.

The idea of "J. S. P." respecting an aperient pill, is correct. Cadogan's book is out of date, and the Medical Dictionary will probably be published in the course of eight months.

The case of "E. Z. W." being very complex, the Editors advise him to favour them with a visit. In the interim he may take two tea-spoonsful of the saturated tincture of Buchu leaves in a wine-glassful of the decoction of Iceland moss, or of rhatany root.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—(*continued.*)

To "Mr. C. W." the Editors recommend the following drops :
his case is evidently scrofulous :—

Take of Tincture of Iodine, half an ounce ;

Ditto of Lupulin, 1 ounce.—Mix.

A tea-spoonful to be taken twice a day, in a wine-glassful of water, or decoction of marshmallow-root.

"A. C——r," of Newington Butts, is advised to take the Harrowgate salts, and to apply the dilute citrine ointment to the parts affected.

The queries of "K. G. R." of Exeter, and of "W. S." of Birmingham, the Editors will answer by post.

Remarks on the Humane Society—Receipt for making a Mermaid—Mr. Wallace's Treatise on Diseases of the Liver—Copy of an apothecary's bill—a case of lithotomy, in Liverpool, will meet with early attention.

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This Philosophical Curative Treatment, aided by Medical, Surgical, and Mechanical Remedies, is effectual, in affording permanent benefit, both in Acute and Chronic Diseases; viz. Disorders of the Stomach, Liver, and Bowels; Complaints of the Head, affecting and destroying Nervous, Sensorial, and Intellectual Power—as Palsy, Blindness, *Deafness*, &c.: various Affections of the lungs, occasioning Difficult and Painful Breathing; Disorders of the Skin; Glandular and Scrofulous Complaints, affecting the Joints and Muscles; with other Ailments, which, either suddenly or gradually, destroy human life—such as Gout, Rheumatism, Palsy, Dropsy, &c.

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N^o. 84, *To December 1st, 1822.*

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors advise 'A. C—r' to persevere in the Harrowgate water and citrine ointment, and to employ almond powder instead of soap. He may also take two table-spoonsful of the following mixture twice a day.—Take of decoction of bark, 6 ounces ; dilute sulphuric acid, 1 drachm.—Mix.

'E. Smith' will probably receive benefit from the *external* use of the bitter almond emulsion. He may take 5 grains of the blue pill every other night for a fortnight. The complaint is local. .

To 'J. S.' the Editors recommend the infusion of buchu leaves, or pills of the extract. They refer him to the Addition to the Appendix.

If 'Afflictus' had adopted laced stockings after the ulcers were healed, they would not have broken out again. The Editors advise him to apply a poultice of linseed powder and oatmeal, and to avoid exercise. When they are clean and free from pain, he may dress them with the following ointment:—Take of acetate of copper, 10 grains ; calomel, 30 grains ; spermaceti cerate, 1 ounce.—Mix. He may also take five grains of the blue pill every other night for a fortnight.

'Amicus' will find an account of the preparation of bark in the present Number. It is not an alcali. The Editors will notice the book to which he alludes in their next Number, and give an article on Dress, agreeably to his request.

'Z. Z. Z.' would do right to substitute the Harrowgate salt for the colocynth pill. The "swelling" being evidently a rupture, they advise him to make use of Salmon's patent truss. He may also take two tea-spoonsful of the tincture of buchu leaves, in a glass of water, every night, to prevent a recurrence of the complaint.

To 'Mr. Crucifix,' the Editors return their thanks, for his very *polite* letter. As he is disposed to be communicative, he will, no doubt, acquaint the Editors with the terms on which he undertakes to *cure* servants, and, as it will give him very little additional trouble, they will also thank him to favour them with the number of his *radical* cures, and the names of those who had previously been under the care of Messrs. Cline and Pearson. They have pleasure in informing him, that the College of Surgeons intend to notice his *superior* skill and *moderate* charges.

The Editors having been informed, by Mr. Cobb, the treasurer of Curtis's *Royal Ear Dispensary*, that a General Meeting of the *Governors* will be shortly held, for the purpose of examining the accounts, and of ascertaining the number of *real cures* that have been effected, under the directions of Dr. Sims, *accoucheur*-aurist, and his nephew, the *surgeon*-aurist, the Editors have postponed their promised notice of this *most useful* institution till the Report of the *Governors* appears.

'Mr. Whitlaw' is entitled to the thanks of the Editors. The letter from Dublin being *anonymous*, they should subject themselves to the charge of quackery, if they were to publish it. The Editors will with pleasure attend a *real* cancerous case with him ; and if his mode of treatment should succeed, they will be happy to give it publicity. The Editors, understanding that Mr. Rennie's second pamphlet is in the press, have deferred the analysis of Mr. Whitlaw's medicine till they have read it.

'Finis,' of Cheltenham—'S. W. A.' of Ross—'G. G. G.' of Bristol—and 'S. W.' of Waterford—are advised to consult their

TO CORRESPONDENTS. (*continued.*)

The prescriptions of Dr. Pearson, Dr. Scudamour, Dr. Babington, and others, for pulmonary consumption, are intended for the next Number.

The Editors return their sincere thanks to A. Richards, for the interest he has taken in their Work. The back Numbers are only to be obtained, at the reduced price, at 170, Piccadilly. The proprietor cannot make an allowance to booksellers on the reduced charge.

Communications, books, &c. addressed to the Editors, 170, Piccadilly, will be thankfully received.

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